

Four Jews run in Moroccan election

RABAT (R) — Four Jews are among 2,042 candidates standing for election to Morocco's 333-seat parliament, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday. The election on June 25 for 222 members to be chosen by direct universal suffrage will replace the chamber of representatives whose eight-year mandate expired in October. The other 111 members will be elected indirectly by members of local councils, professional groups and trade unions. One of the outgoing chamber's members was a Jew, Jo Ohana, who represented the central Constitutional Union Party. His brother Jack Ohana is standing for election to the new parliament for the same party. The other Jewish candidates are Simon Levy of the Communist Party of Progress and Socialism, Haim Toledo running for the rural-based Action Party, and Prosper Suissa, sponsored by the National People's Movement, a Berber party. "Moroccan Jews have the same political rights as all other citizens," a senior Interior Ministry source said. The Moroccan Jewish community, whose origins go back 2,000 years, numbered 275,000 at independence in 1956. Most have emigrated to Israel and the community has dwindled to less than 8,000, Jewish sources said. There are also 33 women, two former prime ministers, 19 ex-ministers and four ministers in the present government running for election.

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Tunisia to host multilateral talks

TUNIS (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was quoted Wednesday as saying Tunisia would host a working group in the Middle East multilateral peace talks in October. Al Rai Al Am newspaper said Mr. Peres told one of its reporters in a rare interview with a Tunisian paper that Tunisia has agreed to host the working group on refugees in the multilateral talks, which began in Moscow in January 1992. The Israeli foreign minister lauded Tunisia's role in the Middle East peace talks as "very important." Tunisia's "acceptance to host the meetings of the working group on refugees will consolidate its sense of responsibility on this issue," Mr. Peres said in the interview.

Kuwait cool to Yemeni call

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, in an apparent response to Yemeni calls for reconciliation, said Wednesday it was in no hurry to normalise ties with states which sympathised with Iraq. "Kuwait is not hasty about this issue," Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah was quoted as saying by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). Earlier Wednesday, in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh urged Gulf Arab states to turn a new leaf after strains caused by Yemen's sympathy for Iraq in the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis (see page 2).

Iraq beats Yemen

CHENGDU, China (AP) — Iraq took another step towards the United States and a place in the 1994 World Cup finals with a 3-0 victory over Yemen here on Wednesday. The win, sealed by goals from Amish Ahmad, Noman Saad and Shaiib Laith, made Iraq almost certain to win Group A in the Asian zone qualifiers, having earned 11 points from six matches. China and Yemen are second and third in the five-team league, both on eight points but separated by goal difference. China beat Jordan 4-1 Wednesday (see page 6).

Nigeria election count frozen

ABUJA (AP) — Nigeria's electoral commission on Wednesday refused to declare a winner in the presidential elections pending a court case alleging the balloting was rigged. The decision was a blow to this troubled nation's attempt to end a decade of military rule and a possible sign that General Ibrahim Babangida was not ready to give up power. Partial results from Saturday's elections showed Moshod K.O. Abiola, 55, a publishing and transportation tycoon leading millionaire banker Bashir Othman Tofa by a wide margin.

Barzani seeks support in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — A top Iraqi Kurdish leader seeking Turkey's support to his de facto state in northern Iraq, Wednesday pledged to keep Turkish Kurdish insurgents at bay in return. Masoud Barzani met with President Suleyman Demirel and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. Anadolu Agency said he briefed them on his recent trips to the United States, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia along with other Kurdish and Arab politicians seeking to topple Saddam Hussein and set up a democratic Iraq.

U.N.-Iraq dispute continues

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq Wednesday continued to ignore a U.N. request to install surveillance cameras at two ballistic missile plants, U.N. spokesmen said. "They have not budged from their position and the situation remains unchanged," the spokesmen who declined to be identified told AFP. The Iraqis are seeking talks with the U.N. special commission in charge of its disarmament before allowing the United Nations to install the cameras in the Yawk Al Azim and Rafah plants near Baghdad, he said.

Israel, Palestinians focus on self-rule plan

Syria says 'security' discussions must await return of all occupied lands

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli and Arab peace negotiators began a second day of talks on Wednesday aimed at reaching an agreement on a blueprint for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A group of Jews demonstrated opposite the State Department as Palestinian delegates headed by Faisal Al Hussein, the most prominent leader in the occupied territories, and the Israeli team went inside.

Israel was also holding separate talks with Syria and Lebanon in the morning session and with Jordan in the afternoon.

Syria's mid-east peace negotiator said a U.S. offer to help secure the Golan Heights makes it harder for Israel to insist on keeping the territory for protection.

But Mawafiq Al Allaf said any detailed discussion of "security" arrangements must wait for Israel to agree to surrender all of the occupied territories.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher made the offer Tuesday, as a 10th round of negotiations opened. He said it depended on a "sound agreement" between Syria and Israel over the territory's future.

"The meaning of this readiness by the United States," Mr. Allaf said, "is that Israel can no more use the pretext of security as a way of keeping or trying to keep any part of the Golan."

Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich welcomed the offer, but said U.S. security guarantees were only one element of "protecting" Israel.

"Israel has always taken responsibility for its own defence," he said.

An Israeli newspaper said the Golan would become a demilitarised zone under security arrangements Israel is proposing to Syria at the peace talks.

Syria is ready to accept demilitarisation of all or part of the Golan Heights if the Israeli army withdraws from an equivalent area of its own territory, the Haaretz daily said.

Damascus is not opposed to a limited and temporary Israeli military presence on the Golan that would monitor any Syrian movement for five years until a peace treaty is signed, Haaretz said.

Israel could monitor with radar and the help of international observers or U.N. troops from the five permanent member countries of the Security Council

which would patrol both sides of the future Syrian-Israeli border. Haaretz said Israel is offering several choices to Syria:

— U.S. and Russian troops take up positions on the Golan and in Syria while Israeli troops pull back. Syria would reduce its army by two or three divisions between the current ceasefire line and Damascus.

— A demilitarised zone stretching north of Damascus, with Syrian, Israeli, and U.N. maintaining only observation posts.

— Israeli troops withdraw five kilometres from current positions, where they would remain for 15 years to give both sides time to reach a new compromise depending on the state of their relations.

Israel also wants to protect its water supplies on the Golan, the source of the Banyas river which flows into the Jordan River.

It also wants to have its border with Syria pushed 10 metres beyond the east bank of Lake Tiberias and two or three kilometres east of the Jordan River.

Meanwhile, Palestinian negotiator Hanan Ashrawi is holding (Continued on Page A, Weekend)

Jordan emphasises comprehensive approach

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Chief Jordanian negotiator Fayez Al Tarawneh said Wednesday the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks had affirmed Jordan's principled stand on the Middle East peace process and on the terms of reference of the process as represented in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of exchanging land for peace and giving the Palestinian people their rights.

Following the first session of the 10th round of bilateral talks, Dr. Tarawneh said the Jordanian and Israeli negotiators focused in their discussions on the working mechanism of the Jordanian-Israeli track.

The negotiators, he said, did not discuss the agenda of negotiations which is still being under study by the Jordanian government. Other issues are being tackled in the discussions of the temporary unofficial working groups, he said.

The first session of the negotiations is mainly of an administrative

nature and the temporary working groups will continue their work said Dr. Tarawneh, who was appointed head of the Jordanian delegation last week succeeding Abdul Salam Al Majali who became prime minister May 29.

Dr. Tarawneh, who also serves as Jordan's ambassador to the U.S., said Jordan's position in the talks is governed by its principled stand on the need to solve the Middle East problem within a comprehensive framework. "We are keen on keeping the balance between the various tracks," he said.

Dr. Tarawneh said the Arab delegations to the talks have held a coordination meeting ahead of the start of the 10th round and all the Arab parties showed full interaction through continuous following up matters and participating in the daily meetings of the Arab coordination committee.

Jordan, he said, is concerned about keeping the balance between other Arab tracks and that it believes that the Palestinian



Fayez Tarawneh track is independent because the Kingdom believes the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination.

"We fully support them in their endeavours to reach peaceful, just and comprehensive solution," he said.

He said it was premature to discuss the continuation of the negotiations, noting that the Arab side would keep in touch with the co-sponsors of the peace talks to reach an agreement on the duration of the 10th round.

Arafat accuses world of double standards on human rights

VIENNA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accused the world of double standards Wednesday and said the plight of Palestinians living under Israeli rule proved that some human rights abusers could escape unpunished.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), approached the podium at the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights to sustained applause and delivered a speech that pulled no punches.

"The denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and grave violations of Palestinian human rights over decades provides us with the most striking example of double standards the implementation of human rights," Mr. Arafat told a packed conference hall.

"The very clear support accorded to Israel by the USA and other states can only but encourage Israel to persist in its policies of aggression, occupation... and violation of human rights," Mr. Arafat said to more than 160 government delegations, including two members of the Israeli group.

India earlier interrupted the conference in protest over an address by Pakistan's Nusrat Bhutto who accused New Delhi of brutality in the northern Indian province of Kashmir.

The two countries exchanged bitter allegations when the afternoon session resumed.

But there was no intervention by Israel or any other country over Arafat's speech. According to conference rules, delegations should not mention specific rights violations in any state.

Mr. Arafat also pointed the finger at the United Nations and other international organisations which he described as dominated by world powers which imposed their concept of human rights on the weak and the poor.

He said some powerful nations were opposed to the right of development for people in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"We see this antagonism translated into attempts to impose a mechanism that allows them, under the pretext or the defence of human rights, to achieve their objectives through direct intervention," he said to an outbreak of applause from the conference public gallery.

The PLO leader aligned himself with other states, notably from Asia and the Middle East, who oppose Western calls for a tough, binding human rights code imposed by U.N. rights commissioner and court.

China adopted a hardline stand Tuesday, totally rejecting U.S. calls for intervention when a state has been found to be violating human rights.

Individuals must put the state's rights before their own, China defiantly told the conference. Outside in the rain, the Dalai Lama disagreed.

"There are no absolute individual rights and freedom, except those prescribed by and within the framework of law," Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu, head of China's delegation, told delegates to the first global meeting on human rights in 25 years.

"Nobody shall place his own rights and interests above those of the state and society, nor should he be allowed to impair those of others and the general public," Mr. Liu said. "This is a universal principle of all civilised societies."

(Continued on page 5)

King and Queen due in Washington

LONDON (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday left London for Washington, concluding a three-day visit to the British capital. During his stay in London, King Hussein met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and reviewed with him issues of common interest, including bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

The King is scheduled to meet with President Bill Clinton at the White House Friday. He will also meet with senior administration officials and congressmen.

After Washington, the King will undergo medical check-ups at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, where he underwent surgery last year.

His Majesty King Hussein is on a visit to the U.S. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal served as Regent between the time the King left and the Crown Prince returned home from Vienna.



Human rights conditions are contingent on economic and social rights — Regent

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has warned of possible failure of the present conference on human rights in Vienna.



"Tensions within the conference," the Crown Prince said at a press conference in Vienna Tuesday, "cause great grief unless we establish the link between human rights and humanitarianism."

Prince Hassan was referring to the polarisation at the conference between Western advocates of universality of human rights and Third World claimant of particularism.

While the Prince said he strongly believed in the univer-

sality of human rights, he said that improvement to human

rights, conditions worldwide were contingent on improvement of economic and social rights.

The Crown Prince, who addressed the conference Monday, returned home late Tuesday and was sworn in as Regent.

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's comments at the Vienna conference.

"The United Nations' General Assembly endorsed yet again in December the call my government made over 10 years ago for the establishment of the international humanitarian order. We hear a lot about the new world order and we

feel that the content of that order should be humanitarian, should be anthropocentric as opposed to no politics in the sense of material on strategic perceptions.

"One very important (point) to make when we speak of universality is that tensions that exist within the conference, which we cannot deny, between particularism on the one side and sovereignty and universality on the other are probably going to cause great grief unless we establish the link between human rights and humanitarianism."

"I don't really see why the

(Continued on page 5)

Knesset urged to put off debate on torture

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's justice minister Wednesday recommended that parliament postpone a decision on whether to outlaw torture until a special committee studied the issue.

Minister David Libai claimed that reports of torture by the Shin Bet security service were exaggerated, and any confirmed abuse should be turned over to the prosecutors, army radio reported.

Parliament member Tam Gozinsky, who introduced the bill, said it was needed because torture had become systematic rather than a rare phenomenon among junior soldiers.

"Every Palestinian detainee goes through systematic torture from the moment of detention including blows to all parts of the body, having his head shoved into a wall, covering his head with a smelly bag for hours and even days," Ms. Gozinsky said on army radio.

"Not one nor two or 20 but hundreds of people have testified to this," she said.

The association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights, which just sponsored a two-day conference detailing abuses in Israeli jails, handed Mr. Libai a petition bearing 3,000 signatures calling for the government to pass a law banning torture.

In a related development Wednesday, the American-based Physicians for Human Rights saying health care for Palestinians in the occupied territories was seriously hampered by Israeli restrictions.

In a 60-page report, the human rights by the security forces included "excessive use of force, beatings, indiscriminate shootings, widespread and inappropriate use of toxic gas, forced entry, curfews, infringement on freedom of movement of health personnel and obstruction of access to health care."

The report was based on two studies in 1990 and 1991, with a total 68 families involved as samples.



Two young Somalis Wednesday tear up an effigy of an American flag during a demonstration in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Famine relief operations resume in bombed-out Somalia capital

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Trucks trundled out of Mogadishu port Wednesday signalling the resumption of relief operations halted a week ago to pave way for U.N. air raids.

Three trucks, cheered by a large crowd of Somalis, ferried 90 tonnes to the northern part of Mogadishu for distribution to feeding centres which closed last week after aid workers were evacuated to neighbouring Kenya.

Mike French, an official of the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP), said relief operations would also resume soon in the southern part of the city, where the world body has been locked in a bitter fight with warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

Relief operations were shut down in much of the famine-stricken country after 23 Pakistani soldiers of the U.N. operation in Somalia, which is ensuring food aid in the battle-scarred Horn of Africa country, were killed on June 5.

On Wednesday, seven relief agencies were set to reopen their offices in the Somali capital. Their return was announced Tuesday after a meeting with

U.N. special envoy to Somalia, Admiral Jonathan Howe, who diplomats said assured aid agencies there would be no more military strikes to punish a defiant Aided.

On Saturday, U.S. AC-130 warplanes bombed General Aided's arms dumps and depots for three days. The warlord is widely held responsible for the deaths of the Pakistanis.

Pentagon officials said a fourship Marine contingent had been ordered to leave the Gulf area and could be off Somalia within several days.

One Pentagon official said the unit, if ordered to Somalia, could get there by Saturday at the earliest.

"It ups the ante a little bit," said one source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "It allows President Clinton the option to bring them in, or pull them back as he sees fit."

Around 1,000 Aided supporters staged an angry but non-violent demonstration Wednesday against the U.N. air raids.

"Peace yes, war no," and "Somalis is not for sale," proclaimed some of the banners held by the protesters, who gathered outside a sports stadium in southern Mogadishu.

They also yelled "Clinton down" and raised their fists in

anger each time U.S. observation helicopters swooped by overhead.

A similar number of demonstrators gathered Tuesday, the least violent day since Saturday.

Anti-U.N. demonstrations Saturday and Sunday ended in bloodshed, with at least 20 Somalis shot dead by Pakistani peacekeepers.

The U.N. Security Council has defended the Pakistanis, saying they opened fire because gunmen were trying to attack them using women and children pushed to the front of the demonstrations as human shields.

Adm. Howe hit back at Italy for condemning the shooting of Somalis by Pakistani troops.

"I think the Italians should not criticise before seeing the results of the inquiry," the envoy, Adm. Howe told Italian GR2 state radio.

"Pakistani troops have in my opinion performed very, very well in Somalia."

"The circumstances of this incident must be examined very closely," he added.

An inquiry has begun into Pakistani insistence its troops fired only at people who, using women and children as a shield, were shooting at them.

Yemen urges Kuwait to turn new page

KUWAIT (AP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has called on Kuwait to open a new page in relations with his country, strained by Yemen's pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

"According to the logic of history and geography, Yemen is an indivisible part of the (Arabian) Peninsula and the Gulf," Mr. Saleh told the local daily Al-Siyassah in an interview.

"No matter how mad friends are at each other they will still need each other... so why don't we learn from the past and close these black pages?" he told the daily.

Yemen and several other Arab states showed pro-Iraqi sympathies during the Gulf crisis. Kuwait and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ostracised these states and retaliated by cutting off financial assistance. Saudi Arabia expelled one million Yemeni workers.

The GCC groups Kuwait with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Kuwait's foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, recently told the Saudi Arabian magazine Al-Yamama that his country did not object to restoring relations with the Arab countries that supported Iraq if these apologised publicly.

He ruled out rapprochement with Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Yemen had nothing to do with the invasion," Mr. Saleh said. "The truth is that Yemen was a member of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) that also includes Egypt, Iraq and Jordan," the president noted. The ACC has been moribund since the Gulf crisis.

"Kuwait has the right to seek even the devil's assistance to defend itself, but we wanted an Arab solution... because foreign forces are usually after their own interests and their existence in the area is not without dangers," Mr. Saleh was quoted as saying.

Similar views, voiced by Yemen's foreign minister in an interview published by Al-Siyassah last week, drew criticism from



Ali Abdullah Saleh

many columnists.

"This (the foreign minister's statement) is not enough and... the wounds in the hearts are very deep," wrote Yousef Al Shihab in the independent Al-Qabas.

He said the minister, Mohammad Salem Bassindawh, should have denounced the Iraqi invasion and the "crimes that were committed against Kuwait and its people" before announcing his wish to patch up relations.

Ahmad Al Sadoun, the Kuwaiti parliament speaker, told local papers recently that relations with Arab countries that "stood against Kuwait" cannot be restored without the legislature's approval.

Afghan commission to collect weapons

KABUL (AFP) — The first official meeting of the new Afghan Defence Ministry Commission convened in Kabul one month late Wednesday and agreed to uphold the current ceasefire and collect heavy weapons from the Mujahideen.

"All the factions attended the meeting except that of Yunus Khalles, which did not send a representative," said commission member General Yunus Qanooni, adding that President Burhanuddin Rabbani acted as chairman.

Mr. Qanooni, who heads the ministry's political department, attended the six-hour meeting as the personal envoy of Ahmad Shah Masoud, who stepped down as defence minister a month ago.

Mr. Qanooni said it was also

agreed that the ceasefire monitoring commission report any violations.

Mr. Qanooni said "an agreement in principle" had been reached on the heavy weapons collection but the "how and when" would be discussed in a second meeting Thursday.

Mr. Qanooni acknowledged the fact that with one month already gone of the two months allocated for the defence commission to perform its various duties, much remained to be done.

But the surrendering of heavy weapons including the lethal two-metre long Sakkar-type rockets, with a 20 kilometres range, is thought crucial to a lasting peace in the war-ravaged Afghan capital.

Kabul has not seen more than a

U.S. 'deeply committed to helping Israel' — Aspin

WASHINGTON (USIA) — With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, a whole new dimension of threats to Middle East peace and security and to Israel have emerged, including "a whole series of threats in the nuclear area," Defence Secretary Les Aspin has said.

"The Clinton administration is deeply committed to helping Israel cope with these dangers to increase the chances of peace," Mr. Aspin told the American Israel Public Affairs Executive Committee Monday.



Les Aspin

"The world has changed, and the old threats are not now what we would consider to be the major threats. The major new threats are the missile and the nuclear threats. From the other... the danger of direct and sudden violence to individual citizens."

Moreover, he said "radicalism, both secular and religious, has gained momentum over the last decade. It continues to pose a special threat to regional stability and to the peace process," he said.

"Islamic extremists linked to state-sponsored terrorism are infringing on the basic human rights of moderate, non-violent Islamic fundamentalist groups who want to work within the system."

A top priority of U.S. and Israeli security planners should remain stopping the spread of nuclear weapons in the region, deterring their use and developing effective countermeasures, Mr. Aspin said.

The defence secretary, who recently visited Kiev to persuade the Ukrainian government to ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) and Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, said: "The thing that is perhaps most worrying about the situation in Russia is the threat of the spread of nuclear weapons and the danger that they will somehow end up in the world market."

"Syria, Libya and Iran already today have chemical and biological weapons. All they need now are long-range missiles. All three are actively looking for them. Libya wants to develop its own nuclear weapons programme. Iran is pursuing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Iran and Iraq could obtain nuclear weapons by the end of the decade. We cannot allow these deadly pursuits to continue," he said.

In another regional peacekeeping effort, Mr. Aspin said U.S. troops are involved with the forces of other nations in a United Nations military operation in Somalia. He said the June 5 ambush of Pakistani U.N. peacekeeping forces there "clearly required a U.N. response."

From the look of it, the ambush was premeditated, well-planned, and a test of the U.N. peacekeeping effort.

"It is crucial that the United States support the U.N. effort and respond in the appropriate manner against Aided's aggression and his weapons, supplies, and backers," Mr. Aspin emphasised, referring to the Somali warlord who was responsible for the June 5 ambush.

"We hope it sends a clear message... The United Nations and the United States refuse to tolerate this ruthless disregard for the will of the international community. And we will not tolerate this ruthless disregard for the people of Somalia."

He said details of the most recent violence in Mogadishu June 13, when a number of lives were lost, are still unclear, but the United Nations authority there is conducting an investigation. "The United States deeply regrets any loss of life in Somalia, particularly when it comes to innocent people," Mr. Aspin stressed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Demjanjuk to be released if innocent'

KIEV (R) — Condemned Nazi guard Ivan Demjanjuk will be released if it is proven he was not "Ivan the terrible," of Treblinka camp, the speaker of Israel's parliament said Tuesday. Shevach Weiss, the first senior Israeli official to visit post-Soviet Ukraine, said courts examining the appeal against Demjanjuk's 1988 death sentence had established he was a guard at two other Nazi camps. But doubts remained whether he had been the notorious gas chamber operator at Treblinka in Poland. "We have 100 per cent evidence that he was in Travnik and in Sobibor. He has no alibi for either," Mr. Weiss told a news conference after talks with President Leonid Kravchuk and other top officials. "I would like to emphasise that if he has any kind of an alibi, if we don't have 101 per cent evidence that he was in Treblinka, he will go free."

India, Oman to work for reduced tension

MUSCAT (AP) — India and Oman pledged to work jointly to reduce tension in the region following a visit by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to the sultanate, a joint press statement said Wednesday as Mr. Rao left for New Delhi. The statement also underscored plans by the two countries for multibillion-dollar cooperation in hydrocarbons. These include laying a gas pipeline under the Arabian Sea from Oman to India and two refineries in India to be fed with Omani oil. "India and Oman have agreed on making joint efforts to reduce tension in the region and to work together to strengthening regional cooperation in the interest of peace, security and stability," said the statement. During his visit, Mr. Rao met for 90 minutes with the ruler, Sultan Qaboos. Among other topics, he discussed the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Koran lessons become compulsory in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq, ruled by the secular Baath Party, has decided to impose compulsory Koran lessons in state schools, the government press reported Wednesday. President Saddam Hussein approved the measure Tuesday and allocated 105 million dinars (\$2 million on the unofficial market) to the effort, mainly to train teachers. Some four million pupils study in Iraq's primary and secondary schools. It was not specified if children from the country's one-million-strong Christian community would have to attend the classes. In April, President Saddam said students should be able to know the Koran by heart and ordered teachers to explain it.

Japanese reschedule \$800m in Iranian debt

TOKYO (AFP) — Nine Japanese trading companies and Iran have reached a two-year rescheduling agreement on some \$800 million in overdue debts which were payable at the end of March, a spokesman for Tomen Corporation said Wednesday. The spokesman said the agreement was reached in Tehran Tuesday after the National Iranian Oil Co. agreed to offer crude oil as collateral for the government debt while guaranteeing future repayments with crude oil revenues. The agreement is expected to be finalised by the end of this month, he said. The news came less than three weeks after the Japanese government resumed economic assistance to Iran after an 18-year break with a \$3 billion yen (\$362 million) loan to help finance a hydro-electric power plant project.

Iraqis who sewed mouths end protest

KUWAIT (R) — Six Iraqis who sewed their mouths shut a week ago to back demands for better food and conditions at a Kuwaiti detention centre have ended their protest, diplomatic sources said Tuesday. Parliamentarian Abbas Munawar said last week seven Iraqis had started the protest on June 7 at Talha, a former school converted into a detention centre after Kuwait's 1991 Gulf war liberation from Iraqi occupation. The sources said the protesters in fact numbered six. They added they did not know what day the protest had ended. The protest was aimed at securing better food and air conditioning and access to radio, television and newspapers. Talha houses about 600 foreigners suspected of violating national security or residency regulations and criminals who have completed jail terms and are awaiting deportation.

Arms ban laughing matter, British inquiry told

LONDON (Agencies) — Western allies, including the United States, were amused or indignant when Britain banned arms sales to Iran and Iraq in 1984, a former senior official said Tuesday.

Sir Stephen Egerton, a former assistant undersecretary in the Foreign Office, also told a inquiry into British arms sales to Iraq that while the government confided the new policy to foreign governments, it kept quiet about it in Britain.

Mr. Egerton said the government had decided not to announce the new policy, but to let the new policy just "filter out."

His testimony underlined criticisms that Britain's conservative government has been misleading about arms sales to Iraq.

His evidence also appeared to bolster charges that senior officials knew British companies were supplying arms-related equipment to Iraq right up to its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Britain imposed the arms ban on both sides during the 1980-88 war between Iran and Iraq. Previously confidential documents indicate that by the late 80s, the British trade and defence ministries were increasingly impatient with the ban. The Foreign Office was more cautious and also worried about publicity.

Prime Minister John Major ordered the inquiry, presided over by High Court Judge Lord Scott, after the trial of three British businessmen charged with illegal arms sales collapsed in November. Ex-Defence Minister Alan Clark acknowledged in court that he had encouraged the sales.

The judicial inquiry centres on whether Mr. Major, Margaret Thatcher, who was prime minister until November 1990, and other government ministers lied to cover up the sales.

Mr. Egerton said that in 1984 he travelled around telling allies "particularly the United States, but also in Europe, what we were going to do."

The United States and Arab countries were particularly critical because they feared Iran was winning and wanted "favourable treatment" for Iraq, said Mr. Egerton.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif et Hecale

17:45 Superships

18:15 L'ecole des fins

19:00 News in French

19:15 Fusion

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Mr. Bear

21:10 Quasim Leap

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr

05:25 (Sunrise) Duha

12:35 Dhuhr

16:17 'Asr

19:47 Maghrib

21:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625431

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772641

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624329

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 23 / 37

Aqaba 23 / 37

Deserts 18 / 33

Jordan Valley 19 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Sawra 732056

Dr. Abdel Hadi Tayyem 620115

Dr. Saoud Ali 786285

Dr. Waleed Al Mawri 674485

Picos pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Aqana pharmacy 637055

Nairookh pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shurkani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Fire Brigade 891228

Police 192, 621111, 637777

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Roadside Police 192, 621111, 637777

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 603680

Prior Complaints 661170

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information 891228

(directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Reprints 623101

Abdul Telephone Repair 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 689109

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority 615615

Electric Power 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53300

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akash Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Melba, J. Amman 6641714

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 771112/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 60224050

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09783323

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Aden (RJ)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)

07:30 Rome (RJ)

08:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:00 Moscow (RJ)

09:30 Athens (RJ)

10:00 London (RJ)

10:30 Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:00 Riyadh (SU)

14:55 Rome (AZ)

20:35 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg

Apple 700 / 700

Banana 680 / 680

Banana (Malammar) 620 / 620

Beans 440 / 140

Carrot 100 / 50

Cauliflower 300 / 200

Cucumbers (large) 70 / 30

Cucumbers (small) 150 / 100

Eggplant 120 / 60

Garlic 600 / 300

Lemon 600 / 300

Marrow (large) 140 / 90

Marrow (small) 250 / 200

Onion (dry) 80

Onion (wet) 150 / 100

Orange 340 / 200

Pepper (hot) 180 / 120

Pepper (sweet) 240 / 180

Potato 180 / 120

Tomato 80 / 40

Letter from Vienna

World Conference on Human Rights

By Waleed Sa'adi

BOSNIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER'S impassioned appeal Tuesday for swift action to help out his beleaguered people in several parts of the country took participants by surprise.

The reaction was also swift and spontaneous, culminating in an almost unanimous endorsement of the Bosnian call for an action-oriented step by the United Nations Security Council.

The first to react to the emotional appeal of the Bosnian foreign minister was the foreign minister of Costa Rica who immediately took the floor and called on the conference to heed the proposal.

Next followed the Jordanian delegation when Senator Leila Sharaf seconded the support for the Bosnian demand.

Many other delegations followed suit, including the foreign ministers of several Arab countries, notably Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Lebanon.

Many foreign ministers from the Muslim World also voiced their support.

The endorsement of the Bosnian call was almost universal. Until that point in time there was little action in the conference room, in spite of several keynote speeches from several personalities and heads of state including His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and a score of foreign ministers from all corners of the world.

The real action is being conducted by the drafting committee which is busy putting the final touches on a declaration soon to be called the Vienna Declaration in a manner reminiscent of the Tehran Declaration 25 years ago.

Meanwhile, the plenary of the conference state and prime ministers or foreign ministers are expected to make their positions clear on the vexing issues dividing the developed from the developing worlds.

Many staunch supporters of human rights are now lowering the level of their expectations by admitting that the most that can be hoped for is the cementing of what has already been achieved internationally in human rights endeavours.

Should this objective be attained, then all would not be lost as far as the cause of human rights is concerned.

But should the developing countries succeed in diminishing the already adopted standards on human rights, then the Vienna conference could indeed be looked upon as a reversal in the pursuit of human rights.

Till now there is strong sentiment in favour of avoiding any serious setbacks or turning the clock of human rights back under the pressure of states with dismal human rights records.

Such countries are exploiting all sorts of pretexts including the arguments of peculiar cultural circumstances and their economic underdevelopment as excuses for the adoption of less stringent human rights norms.

Such a posture is weakening in the Vienna conference since most of the U.N. members are already treaty-committed to the existing standard of human rights.

There is simply no legal way out of the present commitments and the undemocratic states of the world know this only too well.

Brotherhood bloc urges release of 'political detainees'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday urged the release of political detainees it alleges the government is holding in violation of the law.

These detainees include Jordanian citizens who recently returned home "after providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan," spokesman of the bloc Ibrahim Khreisat told the Jordan Times.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the bloc also demanded that the government refrain from arresting citizens "except in accordance with the law and announce that Jordanians living abroad can return to the country, where they will be treated according to the law."

Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad declined comment on the alleged arrests.

Mr. Khreisat accused the government of failing to fulfil earlier promises it made to the bloc that it would end these practices.

"Despite (Brotherhood de-

puties) feeling that the government gives promises to end these practices, the real situation does not reflect these promises," said the statement.

Mr. Khreisat claimed that tens of Jordanians living abroad have not been allowed to return home and those who returned were arbitrarily arrested by security authorities who, the bloc claimed, were still intervening in the appointment of citizens and confiscating property.

Members of the Brotherhood bloc, the largest at the House, last month met with former Prime

Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who they said gave them assurances that "a suitable solution" would be found to the problem of Jordanians who were detained upon return from Afghanistan.

"The government did not implement these assurances and many are still detained," said Mr. Khreisat.

Mr. Khreisat, who acknowledged that some of the 15 detainees whose release the Brotherhood demanded in May were freed, claimed that an unspecified number of Jordanians are still behind bars. He said the

Brotherhood learned of their arrest from their relatives.

Mr. Khreisat earlier told the Jordan Times that none of the alleged detainees were among Arab nationals who were expelled by Pakistan in a crackdown on foreign militants who had fought along with the Afghan Mujahideen to topple the Communist regime of President Najibullah in Kabul.

"Government should deal with Jordanians returning from Afghanistan as loyal citizens who... performed their duty on behalf of their people and country," the

Brotherhood said in the statement.

"For that," said the statement, "they deserve proper recognition and not be thrown in jail."

The Brotherhood had earlier said it did not object to the questioning of returnees from Afghanistan but sees no reason for their detention.

"(The returnees from Afghanistan) could (be) allowed to return home and then summoned for questioning. There is no need for detaining them," Mr. Khreisat said.

Minister looks into farmers' needs

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal Wednesday said the ministry is working diligently on opening new markets for Jordanian agricultural produce via agreements with other countries and barter deals.

In a meeting with farmers from the northern badia (desert) regions and Al Mafraq governorate, Dr. Kamal said the ministry was ready to receive any suggestions or complaints by farmers to overcome obstacles facing this sector.

He also expressed his confidence in Jordanian farmers, voicing pride in the achievements of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom.

At the outset of the meeting, the minister was briefed on the farmers' demands, namely their calls for subsidising fuel used in agriculture, speeding up work in the tomato paste factory in Mafraq governorate, rescheduling the "farmers' debts, allowing the export of watermelons and bartering agricultural produce.

Industry chamber requests workers' wage rates set

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry Wednesday demanded that the Labour Ministry form a committee grouping private and public sectors to set rates for workers' wages in Jordan.

These wages should be reasonable and acceptable to the employers and the workers, said Khalidoun Abu Hassan, the chamber's president at a meeting with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi.

Noting that the chamber was cooperating with the labour ministry and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in training students, Mr. Abu Hassan said that such practice is aimed at securing skilled workers for the Jordanian market.

Women's union plans to attract new members

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Jordanian Women (GUJW) is preparing a new set of regulations aimed at absorbing larger numbers of women as members in their individual capacity or as representatives of various organisations into GUJW, President Haifa Abu Ghazaleh announced Wednesday.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh told a press conference that the union has plans for opening several community and development centres in the governorate and centres for vocational training of women.

These centres are being planned to help women find work in the local labour market or to enable them to start household projects and handicrafts, which the union would later help to market, explained Dr. Abu Ghazaleh.

Furthermore, she said, the union, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education has opened several adult and literacy centres, cultural clubs and children's libraries.

The union continues to demand from Parliament the introduction of laws to protect women's rights and the amendment of those considered unjust and unfavourable to women, she said.

One law which the union seeks to amend concerns health insurance which, Dr. Abu Ghazaleh maintained ought to include benefits for working women's children.

On the pan-Arab front, Dr. Abu Ghazaleh said the union has been active in rallying support for the Palestinian people and their intifada through several activities to raise funds for them.

Pontifical mission seeks relief supplies for Iraq

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Pontifical Mission for Palestine, which has been collecting and channelling relief supplies to the people of Iraq, is making fresh efforts at the European and American level to ensure further shipments of food and medicine to Iraq, according to mission Amman office Director Father William Corcoran.

The efforts are spearheaded by Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, prefect of congregations for Oriental churches, who last month visited Jordan and Iraq to discuss the relief operations for the Iraqi people. Fr. Corcoran told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Upon the directives and under the supervision of Cardinal Silvestrini, the mission plans to approach Germany, Sweden, Italy and other European nations along with the United States and Canada to urge them to contribute more relief supplies to the Iraqi people, and a meeting to be held in Rome in the next few days will discuss the plan, said Fr. Corcoran.

"I am heading for the Rome meeting Thursday to urge that more supplies be forthcoming in

view of the situation I have just witnessed during my week-long visit this month to Baghdad, Basra and other areas in Iraq," noted Fr. Corcoran.

"My mission carried \$150,000 worth of medicines to Iraq, of which two-thirds were delivered to the government hospital in Baghdad and the rest to a Chaldean-run paediatrics hospital in Basra," Fr. Corcoran said.

In Iraq, he said, people, especially children, suffer from malnutrition and they are generally poor, but the worst area is Basra which lacks proper agricultural projects, unlike the situation in Mosul and other areas of the north.

In his earlier trip to Iraq, Fr. Corcoran took shipments of children's milk which were distributed in several regions.

"In our efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and the sick," said Fr. Corcoran, "we have found very close cooperation on the part of the Iraqi government."

He said that during his visit he toured several vocational training projects run or supported and financed by the Vatican and its affiliated institutions in Iraq.

Minister urges Greece to buy Jordanian produce, medicines

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry and Trade Minister Bassam Al Saket Wednesday urged Greece to adjust the current balance of trade with Jordan by buying the Kingdom's fruits, vegetables and medicines, and increasing its imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash.

Addressing a delegation representing the Greek-Arab Chamber of Commerce, led by John Cassimatis, Dr. Saket said that joint industrial ventures can also help boost trade between the two sides and increase exports.

Mr. Cassimatis, who arrived in Amman, after visits to Lebanon and Syria, to discuss trade and

economic cooperation, is accompanied by Mohammad Al Sayed, the chamber's secretary general, and 20 Greek businessmen representing 16 industrial firms.

He expressed hope that the two sides will reach an understanding for increasing the volume of Jordanian products sold to Greece.

Mr. Sayyid said Greece continues to import large quantities of Jordanian phosphate, but he hoped that the two sides will reach agreement on setting up a joint maritime company that would operate regularly between Aqaba and Greek ports to help

boost exchange and adjust the balance of trade.

Currently Jordan sells \$4 million worth of products to Greece, but imports \$24 million worth of Greek goods.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the two sides discussed the prospects of Greek regular transport and refrigerated trucks transiting through Jordan to carry Jordanian products to Greece and European destinations on their return trips from the Gulf states.

The two sides also discussed cooperation in organising trade fairs.

Banking institute sets cornerstone for 4,000 sq. metre headquarters

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi Wednesday laid the cornerstone for a complex that will serve as the permanent headquarters for Institute of Banking Studies (IBS).

The Haddadin engineering and contracting firm will build the complex at a cost of JD 1.5 million.

The complex will be constructed on eight dunams in Tlaa Al Ali, western district of Amman, and comprise a total area of 4,000 square metres which will include administration units, teaching halls, a library and a multi-purpose hall, together with

a cafeteria and a health clinic, according to Adib Haddad, the institute's dean.

Work on the project is to start immediately, but will only be finished by the middle of 1994, said Dr. Haddad.

In laying the cornerstone for the project, Dr. Nabulsi expressed hope that the new headquarters would offer better facilities for training employers in banks and financial institutions in Jordan.

Dr. Nabulsi voiced the CBJ's appreciation for the contributions made by Jordanian banks towards financing the project.

Dr. Haddad told the Jordan Times that the local commercial banks have pledged to provide 60 per cent of the total cost of the project.

"We are indeed looking for-

ward to the day when we become able to transform the institute into a full fledged, specialised university, awarding bachelor degrees to graduates in banking and financial studies," said Dr. Haddad.

Noting that the institute was founded in 1970, Dr. Haddad said that it has graduated 952 students to the end of 1992.

He said, in 1993, the institute plans to hold 60 training courses and seminars for the benefit of bank employees in Jordan.

So far, he said, the institute has held 26 of these courses and seminars, attended by 400 employees.

The present institute has been temporarily housed at the Central Bank premises in downtown Amman.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Abdullah Kattan and Dodi Tabbara at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of Japanese paintings and photos at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rissan at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.

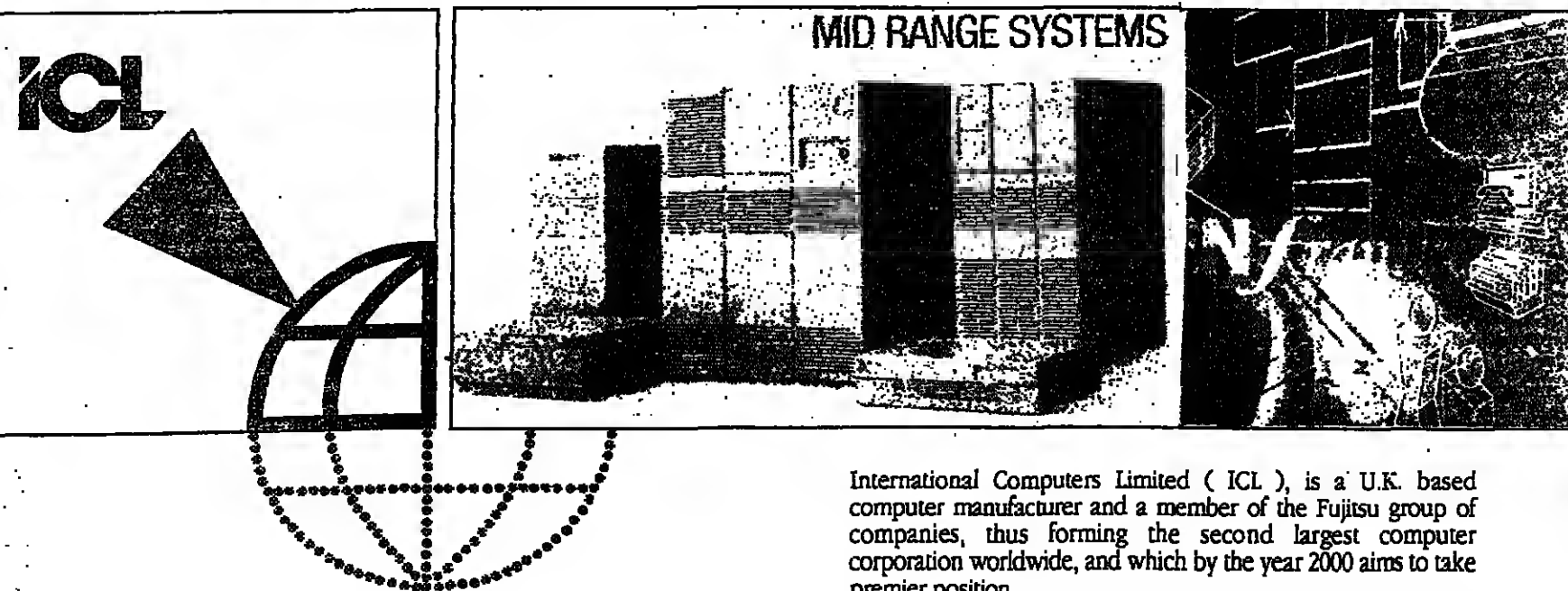
FIELD TRIP

Field trip organised by the Friends of Archaeology to Aqaba and Humeira on Thursday and Friday. Departure will be at 3 p.m. from Amara Hotel parking lot. For information call FOA centre, tel. 696682.

FILM

1959 comedy film entitled "Operation Petticoat" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (120 minutes)

THE WORLD OF OPEN SYSTEMS



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INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION on: cello, clarinet, darbouka, double bass, drum set, flute, guitar, (classical), oud, piano, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, viola and violin. Open to students ages: 7 and above. Options:

■ 4 sessions of 1 hour JD 40
■ 8 sessions of 1/2 hours JD 40
■ 8 sessions of 3/4 hours JD 60
■ 8 sessions of 1 hour JD 80
■ 12 sessions of 3/4 hour JD 90
An additional fee of JD 10 for piano students.

ORCHESTRAL TRAINING: An opportunity to rehearse perform selections from the wide spectrum of orchestral literature. Open by audition to all qualified students of orchestral instruments.

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■ 8 sessions of 3/4 hour JD 60
An additional fee of JD 10 for ensembles of one orchestral instrument and piano.

THEORY OF MUSIC. Open to students preparing for the Written Examinations (Grade: 1-6) of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), scheduled next November. Students preparing these grades for the first time are given placement tests.

■ 12 sessions of 3/4 hour JD 36

AURAL TRAINING, MUSIC READING AND DICTATION. Open to students who wish to develop their hearing, reading and writing music skills particularly those preparing for the Aural requirements (Grades: 1-5) of the Associated Board of the Royal schools (ABRSM).

■ 12 sessions of 3/4 hour JD 36

MUSIC THROUGH COMPUTERS Level I. Participants will be trained through computer facilities to immediately recognize, read and play music notations. Minimum age of participants is 8 years.

Level II. Participants will be trained to create, record and edit music using Voyetra Sequencer Plus Gold. Minimum age of participants is 13 years.

■ 12 sessions of 3/4 hour JD 36

MOVEMENT AND DANCE: An opportunity for females of all ages to be trained in basic movements of modern and folk dance, jazz and ballet.

■ 8 sessions of 90 mins. JD 50

MUSIC CRITICISM: A special course open only to adults interested in developing skills to understand, analyze, compare and criticize music compositions and performances.

■ 12 sessions of 2 hours JD 40

WORKSHOPS

June 20 — July 10 (registration deadline: June 17)

OLD IMPROVISATION: HOW TO PLAY IT AND TEACH IT.

Guest clinician: Munir Bashir

Level I: Open to amateur oud players. 15 sessions of 1 hour JD 75

Level II: Open to professional oud players and teachers.

■ 15 sessions of 2 hours JD 150

August 2 — 14 (registration deadline: June 30)

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■ 10 sessions of 3 hours JD 75

It is regretted that late registration cannot be considered.

The National Music Conservatory
Noor Al Hussein Foundation
Atiytt Building behind the Embassy of Kuwait
Jabal Amman, P.O. Box 926687
Tel: 687620. Fax: 687621

Jordan Times

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Killings that need not be

KUWAIT has all the reasons in the world to be bitter about Iraq's invasion of 1990-1991. The brutality of a "brotherly" occupation and the loss of life and property that resulted from that action cannot be easily forgotten or forgiven. But any bitterness should not be used as an excuse to take revenge against individuals from any country whose only crime was to sympathise with the wrong party. The 10 Palestinian-Jordanians, whom Kuwait has recently sentenced to death for "collaborating" with the Iraqi invaders, should not be sacrificed for the Kuwaiti regime's ineptness to rationally and courageously deal with the crisis that led to occupation, and the Gulf war afterwards. The 10 allegedly belong to the pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front (ALF) and therefore, like any soldier, cannot be totally responsible for their actions. Furthermore, none of them was found guilty of direct killing of Kuwaiti nationals. It is therefore neither morally nor legally right to sentence them to death, let alone hang them. The ALF has already issued a warning against the enforcement of the sentence. That would mean a wave of revenge and counter-revenge, which can only worsen the cycle of violence and perpetuate enmity among brothers.

Instead, Kuwait must ask itself the crucial question: Why should young Arabs — Palestinian, Jordanian or whatever — who for long resided in Kuwait, would find fit to sympathise with an occupation force? The answer to this question requires deep soul searching that would be useful and healthy for the future of Kuwait itself and the Kuwaitis.

Upon asking the right questions, Kuwaitis will probably find that they are partly to blame for what had happened and what had led to it. But Kuwaitis can choose not to ask themselves any questions that might lead them to opt for reconciliation instead of confrontation. Remaining as they are under foreign protection they might think that they can still go on doing things the same old way and get away with it. But they, with whatever Arab blood in their veins, should remember that violence breeds violence and revenge leads to more blood being spilled. On the other hand, the world at large is increasingly shunning the method of state murder, capital punishment. More and more nations are choosing to abolish capital punishment even against perpetrators of the most heinous crimes, just as more people are today more inclined to believe that the taking of life for a crime is a crime in itself. Time and again "justice" was found to be flawed and time and again convicts were found not guilty. Even in countries with advanced investigation techniques and long judicial experience it was sometimes easy to prove that the system can make mistakes, which could not be remedied if the convicts were executed. For these reasons and more we think it would be wise that the Kuwaiti crown prince should think of all these arguments before endorsing the court's ruling and inflict irreparable damage and immense sufferings on others.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Wednesday drew on Prince Hassan's address to the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna, reiterating his appeal to the world to exert efforts for helping not only the poor and the sick, but also those who suffer from human rights abuse. The address urged those who are in a good position to do good to other human beings to rally to end the sufferings of millions who are under the yoke of persecution and repression and are deprived of their basic human rights, said the paper. The Prince's comprehensive address was not a mere appeal to the feelings, it is rather a very important document for the world community to heed and to work in unison to end the suffering, the poverty and the backwardness that is widespread in the world around us, the paper continued. The Prince warned against sufficing ourselves with mere speeches, urging immediate action since repression cannot be removed by words alone, the paper said. The world conference in Vienna, added the paper, is a golden opportunity for the governments, non-governmental organisations and other groups to chart programmes aiming to end repression, remove injustice and alleviate the sufferings of millions of oppressed people, the paper said.

THE FACT that Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has won 44 per cent of the votes in the Iranian presidential election and not 63 per cent, as in the previous election, is a clear indication that something is changing in the political, economic and social scene in Iran, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Mahmoud Rimawi noted that for the first time there were rivals for presidency and that only 34 per cent of the electorate had turned out to cast ballots, unlike the previous election when there was no apparent opposition and the turnout was overwhelming. The writer also pointed out that Mr. Rafsanjani was able to win because he had control over the media, especially radio and television, which were geared to promote his ideas. It was also noted that the opposition candidates were all liberals and no extremist Islamists were on the candidacy list, which means that the political trend in Iran is changing, argued the writer. In this election, Mr. Rafsanjani has found himself facing a true opposition, and the writer, adding that it would be interesting to see whether the liberal opposition would finally have the upper hand in the country and whether this trend would help improve relations with the neighbouring Arab states.

'For war and troubles one side is enough, but peace needs two sides'

There is an opportunity to start solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, says Rabin

In the first interview ever of an Israeli prime minister with a Palestinian newspaper, Daoud Kuttub asks questions to Yitzhak Rabin. The interview appeared in Al Quds on June 10, 1993.

Question: Do you have any good news for Palestinians that we can publish in our newspaper?

Answer: I believe that the good news is that we are ready on the basis of the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference to conduct negotiations that would lead to reaching an agreement with the Palestinian delegation the way it was formed — I was not prime minister at the time — but which was accepted by Palestinians. To bring about the interim agreement as it was called in the letter of invitation Interim Self-Governing Arrangements (ISGA) in the territories. We look at it as phase number one. As an interim agreement for no longer than five years and to start not later than the third year after its establishment negotiations for permanent solution based on 242 and 338 in accordance to the various interpretations. I believe that the first is the most important one because our intention is to bring about change in the life of Palestinians in the territories in the way that the basic perception is:

1. Almost all the functions that today are carried out by the civil administration of the military government of Israel vis-a-vis the Palestinians will be transferred to an executive council that will be elected by the Palestinians. We believe in elections but it is up to you no one can force anybody to elect but this is our proposal.

2. We will remain responsible for the lives of Israelis in the territories and will remain responsible for the overall security. The Israeli forces will redeploy in accordance to its security needs and all the duties of the civil administration will be transferred to the hands of the executive council. We stress that it will not be a parliament but an executive, as an interim agreement. What will be in the permanent period, let us wait till the negotiations start. By changing the present situation which means that all the problems, education, agriculture, interior, relating to the lives of Palestinians — justice courts, prisons.

Q: What are the exceptions?

A: Look, whatever is related to the lives of the Palestinians, we see in addition — not separation of the population from the areas that they are inhabiting. We speak about not territorial division but division of management of land.

Q: You said that most of the authorities of the civil administration will be turned over, what powers will be exempted?

A: I don't want to say. It looks to me that almost all.

Q: What are the exceptions?

A: I don't believe that at this stage it is important. It has to be reached in the negotiations. But this is the principle. Palestinians will run their affairs and we will be responsible for the Israelis. Not big numbers. I believe that we accept the principle that all private land owned by Palestinians will be managed by Palestinians. Might be here and there to prevent friction certain limitations on the (land) use. If today there is a farm near a settlement, not to change it from farming to building to prevent friction. But otherwise this is the agreement that we are proposing.

Q: Mr. Rabin do you have a vision as to what will happen to the areas in 15 years?

A: I believe that there are many options. It all depends on how the first phase that will allow Palestinians to run their affairs in the way it was not proposed before not by Jordan when it was in occupation of the West Bank not by Egypt who was in occupation in the Gaza Strip. There is a basic difference in Israel and I will be frank with you, the Likud sets as its goal the whole land of Israel. I, as a Jew, believe in the right of the Jewish people all over the land of Israel, but I have to be realistic. I don't want to annex, not territory, but 1.8 million Palestinians who reside in the territories to reside in Israel. Therefore, I am not a supporter of the whole land of Israel, at the same time I don't accept that in the context of a permanent solution we have to withdraw to the pre-1967 war lines. We would like to keep Jerusalem united under Israeli sovereignty. There might be changes here and there to what used to be to meet some security aspects of Israel, but we will not want to add too many Palestinians to be part of Israel.

Q: So you don't see annexation as a possibility after the five year interim period?

A: Total annexation by no means.

Q: So annexation is not an option.

A: It is not an option.

Q: So then what is your vision for the future?

A: I believe that if we will succeed in the first phase, confidence will be built, emotions on both sides, hatred and suspicion will be reduced many options might be open. One, certain linkage between the majority of the parts of the territories would be linked with some sort of cooperation with Jordan if there will be a possibility of having Israel the Palestinians and Jordan in some set up. We have found, for example, as a result of the closure how much the economy of the Palestinians in the territories is dependent on work, business, commercial ties with Israel.

Q: This was the policy of all previous governments in Israel to make the Palestinian economy dependent on Israel. Why would it be different now?

A: Now I am ready.

Q: Now but not in the past.

A: I was ready when I was minister of defence. I went to speak to everybody. If tomorrow Saudi Arabia wants to invest billions of dollars for the Palestinians in the territories in cooperation with Palestinians abroad, I would more than welcome it.

Q: Since the closure why have you not helped make business relations easier with Jordan?

A: I can't decide for Jordan. I can do what I can. I spoke to the Americans and to the Europeans.

Q: What about what Israel can do, why for example we pay more taxes in the West Bank than in Israel?

A: It is not true.

Q: The tax rates are higher than in Israel and there is a case in the high court on this.

A: Give me one example.

"I believe that first and foremost we had an agreement, with the Americans, that Jerusalem, the united Jerusalem, will not be included in the interim agreement under the executive council. This is part of Israel and therefore it will not be discussed as an issue during the interim period."

Q: For example if you make in the West Bank 800 shekels you have to pay taxes, in Israel you can make 1,200 shekels and not have to pay taxes. The cut off point in the West Bank is lower.

A: We have to sustain the education and the health system.

Q: To have a higher tax system in the West Bank which has a lower economy than Israel, that is not fair.

A: Look, there are two options; that we are one entity, then it would be against our international commitment to keep the future of the territories subject to negotiations, therefore they are not part of Israel in the formal way. They are under military government. Once they are under military government, the laws are different. It is not sharing the total resources of Israel and the Palestinians into one budget. Once it is divided, and I am not aware of any Arab people or any Arab country that supports that Israel will annex for this purpose the territories. Once it is divided then it has to be run by different rules. You have your economy you are dependent on workers in Israel. Before the closure, 120,000 Palestinians worked in Israel. I believe that their salaries represented one third of the Gross National Product (GNP) of the Palestinians in the territories. I believe their salaries reached \$700 million a year while your exports to Jordan and via Jordan were about \$100 million.

Q: You can send a container to London cheaper than you can send a truck to Amman because of the fees.

A: That is not true. We have reduced the fees since March. When we cancelled the 250 shekels exit tax for Israelis, we reduced the same amount from the fees of the travellers to Jordan.

Q: But it is still very expensive.

A: It has to cover the expenses that an Israeli pays to a travel agent tax to sustain the ports here, or any tourist who comes here what is normal all over the world if you come by ship or by air or you come by land.

Q: You said that the interim period will not be more than five

years, there are Palestinians who doubt this. One American expert has said that the interim phase could last 20 years. What are the guarantees?

A: The guarantee is that we will sign a peace treaty. We don't want an interim agreement for a long time. This is why we say that negotiations will start at least at the beginning of the third year. Which leaves three years for negotiations for permanent solution. We hope that once there will be a change, once there will be also peace agreements with other Arab countries, the whole issue can be facilitated from the point of view of the Israelis, and I just speak for Israelis. I don't speak in the name of others.

Q: Would you agree, like the Likud government did, on binding arbitration if there is no solution at the end of the five year interim period?

A: There is no binding arbitration agreed by anyone.

Q: What about Tabas? It was resolved by means of binding arbitration.

A: Tabas was a very small area, it was 600 square metres.

Q: But what about the principle of arbitration?

A: We don't accept arbitration as a principle because we believe that the responsibility to put an end to the conflict, to wars, violence and terror, must be the responsibility of the parties.

Q: Good, but what if they fail to reach an agreement?

A: I don't believe to arbitration. I don't want imposition on you and I don't want the imposition on us.

Q: Can you tell us what you mean by "Gaza First"?

A: I believe that once we will reach an agreement on the principle of what is the interim agreement, I am ready to start it on both sides. If we both agree with, let us start first in Gaza but only as part of an agreement about the principle and structure for the interim agreement for both (areas) to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, but first we have to reach agreement about the structure and responsibilities of the interim arrangements. Who has to do what, what are the mechanisms of finding solutions whenever there are differences, but between us.

Q: In today's papers you are quoted as saying that the Palestinians are causing trouble reaching decisions. Don't you think that it is easier to resolve this problem by admitting what your government and the Likud government knows — that you are already negotiating with the PLO? So why not declare this and make things easier?

A: How can I put it in a nice way. (lights a cigarette given to him by an aide). I believe that since we deal at this stage with interim agreement related more specifically with the Palestinians in the territories, we have to negotiate with a delegation which is composed of Palestinians.

Q: From our point of view, they can speak with whomever they want, as long as they are negotiating team and with them we will have to reach an agreement and to carry it out. The negotiations are on two levels. The bilateral and the multilateral. On the multilateral, I said that when there is a committee, that deals with the problem of refugees, and we will claim that there are two problems — the problem of the Palestinian refugees and the problem of the Jewish refugees from the Arab countries. There I said I prefer to see the representation of Palestinians who are not residing in what used to be British mandatory Palestine and we accepted to this committee representatives of Palestinians that are not residents of the territories. The same thing goes for the economic committee. This is the change that this government has brought about vis-a-vis the formula. As you remember, the two committees were not in operation when the former government of Israel was in power. These committees are now active because I said that I will stress that Palestinians in the refugee committee must be those who are considered refugees.

Q: What would you do if members of the Palestine National Council from the occupied territories are declared?

A: I believe that they are wise enough — those who are supposed to be members of the PNC — not to do so.

Q: But what is they did, if it was announced?

A: Since it is illegal we would have to take measures.

Q: So you will stop negotiating?

A: I didn't say I will stop negotiating. I said we would have to take measures. I didn't say what kind.

Q: You talked about elections. How can there be elections if there are no political parties allowed

and if there is no radio and television?

A: First, if there will be a decision, we would have to agree about the modalities of the elections, whether they will be regional, within territories, regional West Bank and Gaza — there are many options. We are waiting to start negotiations about that.

Q: So you can envision political parties becoming legal?

A: It depends on what kind. If they are regional, then it will be individual. We have not yet started to discuss that. It is not because we don't. It is because the delegation was not authorised to do it. Then there will be a system of campaigning, then there will be a system of monitoring. I don't mind that members of the U.S. Congress will come and monitor the elections.

Q: But you are opposed to internationally supervised elections?

A: I distinguish between what happened in many countries. International supervision, no. Monitoring by outside, yes.

Q: International monitored OK, but internationally supervised no.

A: Yes.

Q: What about Palestinian radio and TV.

A: It will create a problem, but it is a matter for discussion. We first have to reach an understanding about the basic concept. How it will work. Once we reach agreement on that, then believe me, issue like those you brought out can be solved easily.

Q: Would East Jerusalemites be able to elect and be elected for the council?

A: I prefer that this issue be brought out after we reach agreement on the concept. What is the interim? How will it work, who will run it? I am not excluding the possibility of participation in the elections.

Q: So they can elect and be elected?

A: I say participation as electing.

Q: You reversed the policy of the Likud government regarding Mr. Hussein. What was your reason?

A: Allow me to remind you that when I brought out the first peace initiative, it was directed to Palestinians, because I felt that the time then, might be today also, that we should first tackle the Palestinian-Israeli problem. I made it clear then to the government and to the public that I wouldn't mind that one member of the delegation be a Palestinian that had residence in Jerusalem and in the territories. I didn't change my position, and once I was prime minister I saw no reason why I should oppose what I proposed three and a half years ago.

Q: So will other Jerusalemites be allowed in the delegation?

A: We agreed about one. I believe this is enough for now.

Q: There are 150,000 Palestinians living in Jerusalem. What is their future?

A: Every one of them can become an Israeli citizen automatically. Everyone who lives in Jerusalem can become a citizen. There might be very few who will not automatically be approved. This has been the position of all the governments of Israel. I believe that seven per cent have applied for citizenship, but the rest have preferred to remain Jordanian citizens. That is up to them.

Q: Americans have said that the issue of Jerusalem can be discussed in the interim period. Things like population, health, service, elections. So why are you opposed to talking about Jerusalem in the interim period talks?

A: I believe that first and foremost we had an agreement, with the Americans, that Jerusalem, the united Jerusalem, will not be included in the interim agreement under the executive council. This is part of Israel and therefore it will not be discussed as an issue during the interim period. Issues of elections, here and there other issues regarding the Palestinians who reside in united Jerusalem can be done, but it is not related to the basic problem that we face regarding the 750,000 Palestinians in Gaza and 800,000 who reside in the West Bank. This is the bulk of the problem.

Q: Mr. Freil, the mayor of Bethlehem, said that it is not fair for the settlers from the West Bank to travel to Jerusalem while the Palestinians are not. He called this apartheid. What do you think?

A: Once we decide what is allowed for the citizens of Israel and what is allowed for those who are not citizens of Israel ... The closure that we put was to prevent freedom of movement of Palestinians from the territories and doesn't affect those Palestinians living in united Jerusalem.

Jerusalemites, like me.

A: Where do you live?

Q: I live in Kufir Aqab and I have to wait a long time at the checkpoint.

A: I don't know exactly where the line is. It is not against international law and it is not against the Geneva Convention not to allow freedom of movement. We are allowing 45,000 workers to come to Israel. In addition, there are doctors, students — we just allowed 1,200 students from Gaza to come to take exams in Jerusalem. We allowed it. It is nothing against international law.

Q: Your internal security has improved, so why is the closure continuing?

A: What brought it about is the fact that today it is controlled. Permissions are given on the merit of the request. We intend to see that the security is consolidated and that there is a reduction in violence. We intend to increase the categories that will be allowed to come. For example, women above a certain age, students, doctors, lawyers, but we have to check it week after week and see the implications.

Q: So are you saying that the closure will ease every week?

A: In certain categories it might be.

Q: Are the borders of the closure the borders of the interim rule?

A: They are not borders. We today distinguish between what is Israel's sovereign soil and what is under military government. I believe that the whole world stressed that we keep this distinction because otherwise it would be considered an act of annexation.

"Likud sets as its goal the whole land of Israel. I, as a Jew, believe in the right of the Jewish people all over the land of Israel. I am not a supporter of the whole land of Israel, at the same time I don't accept that in the context of a permanent solution we have to withdraw to the pre-1967 war lines."

Q: Hanan Ashrawi says that Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are held hostage by the Israeli government because you use them as a bargaining chip to put more pressure on the Palestinians.

A: Not at all. I can assure you that if tomorrow there is no violence, there will be no need for all the measures that are taken in coping with violence. Believe me, it doesn't make me happy to keep a few thousand Palestinians in military installations or in prisons. I don't want to keep too many soldiers in the territories unless it is needed. I don't need to use measures like closure of houses or blocking roads. I wish that there would be no need for it. But at the same time, whenever there is violence or terror I have to do it. Once there will be no more, I promise you we will not do it. It costs us money, we don't enjoy doing it, believe me, quite the opposite.

Q: You said on radio that gestures to Palestinians would be made only if they agreed to go to the talks; later you said that because they didn't sign a joint statement, you were going to do something, but then you stopped. It looks like political blackmail.

A: I believe that the demand of the Palestinians every time they come to the negotiations, that we make gestures is a mistake. We were ready at the ninth round of the negotiations to have sub-committees. We suggested and the Palestinians agreed.

Q: Palestinians claim that you reneged on the promise made before the ninth round?

A: We made no promises to Palestinians. We promised the Americans.

Q: The press spoke about 5,000 family reunification cases to be approved, but there are still wives and husbands who are not allowed to live together.

A: There might be cases here and there.

Q: But don't you agree that it is inhuman to keep a wife and husband and children away from each other?

A: We agreed on the quota, not the principle.

Q: So you don't believe that a husband and wife not being together is inhuman?

A: We are not the only country that doesn't allow that.

Q: Can you name one country

that doesn't allow families to be reunited?

A: There are a number of countries.

Q: Gaza Bar Association head Freh Abu Medin says that Moshe Arens' period was better than your period. More Palestinians, including children, have been killed during your rule than before. He also says that Arens removed checkpoints from congested camps, but you brought them back?

A: Our struggle against terror has no limitations. We set up the checkpoints because of the increase in violence.

Q: Why are your soldiers not using shields in their confrontations with Palestinian stone throwers?

A: The instructions are not to shoot (I am not talking about plastic bullets) unless the soldiers' lives are in danger.

Q: So why not use shields? Is it unmanly for the soldiers?

A: Some people ask why don't we use police like in the case of demonstrations of students. Let us speak frankly. We are not the same entity. You and us are different religiously, politically and even, I would say, nationally. Therefore, it is not something like the demonstration of students in Paris or in London or in America. Here it is different. It is a confrontation between two different entities. What is applicable in case of demonstration in Tel Aviv it is not applicable to the confrontations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Q: That means it is a military occupation.

A: As you know it is under military rule.

Q: So why don't you accept the Geneva Conventions.

A: We accept the spirit of the Geneva Convention.

Q: But not the letter of the convention.

A: Why not?

Q: Because deportations are not allowed, because you are not allowed to bring Palestinian prisoners to Israel and it is illegal to settle.

A: It is not correct. The first thing about deportations you are right. It is not part of the Geneva Convention. But allow me to remind you that capital punishment is allowed according to the Geneva Convention. We have tried to refrain from using it. There are outliers for the penalty. Although it is legal in Israel, we have not used it.

Q: Some people say that your special units use the death penalty. This is said by human rights organisations.

A: I believe that everybody prefers temporary removal for two years to being banged.

Q: Your security forces have just arrested the groups you say are responsible for the killing of Tolodano. What is the justification in keeping the deportees in South Lebanon?

A: Because the Hamas is not finished. We have no illusions. Hamas is a movement which has a strict religious perception for the life of the individual, society and the country. They developed under the cover of religion and social activities terror groups not only here but also in Egypt, Algeria and Sudan. In this case, they tried to use terror to achieve their goals. In our case they want to stop the peace negotiations. They want a continuous war between us.

Q: But you will agree to allow them back after a year?

A: What I was committed to I will keep.

Q: There is a political process going on between Israel and the Palestinians. There are many Palestinians who are administratively arrested for political reasons. So why not release the political detainees?

A: We have used these measures in accordance to our law which permits them. We inherited them from the British. I was administratively detained by the British for six months.

Q: But I am not talking about the legal issue, I am talking about the political dimension. There were no peace negotiations between you and the British then.

A: There was no need, there was no war and no fighting. The administrative detention is not a political measure, it is an administrative measure. It is carried out only for one purpose: to make sure that violence will not be instigated, organised and carried out. No Palestinian was detained for expressing political views. You can go on the radio here and say I am for a Palestinian state, the PLO is the sole representative for the Palestinian people.

Q: So why are they not tried?

A: Our law allows that they are detained for six months. There are committees that the detainee can appeal to and it can decide.

(Continued on page 5)

Discovery of church with rich mosaics at Petra forces a re-assessment of late Byzantine urbanism

By Rami G. Khouri

Special to the Jordan Times
The recent discovery and excavation of a large Byzantine-era church have added an important new attraction for visitors to the ancient Nabataean capital city, while challenging scholars to reassess the accepted assumptions about the fate of Petra in the Byzantine era.

The church's large size, prominent location overlooking the central city, and beautifully paved mosaic floors all suggest that it was a major ecclesiastical structure in the late 5th/6th centuries, perhaps even the cathedral that served as the seat of the bishop of the Byzantine province of Third Palestine (Palestina Tertia). We know from historical texts and church records that Petra was the capital of Third Palestine, and that bishops from Petra attended four ecclesiastical councils in the Middle East between the years 347-536 AD.

The surface remains of the church were first identified in 1990 by the late Dr. Kenneth Russell, who noticed outlines of walls faintly protruding from the earth's surface, and many small pieces of glass and stone (tesserae) used to make mosaics. He put together a team and arranged the financing to launch a major excavation of the site, but he died tragically in May 1992 before the project was launched. Pierre Bikai, director of the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, assumed overall leadership of the project, with the ten months of fieldwork co-directed by the American scholars Dr. Zbigniew Hlebowitowski and Dr. Robert Schick, and the Jordanian scholar Dr. Khairi Amir al-Husseini, director of the Department of Antiquities.

After nearly one year of excavations and several months of intensive restoration and conservation, the work has uncovered a large church measuring 26 metres by 15 metres internally, positioned on a prominent ledge north of and directly overlooking the main colonnaded street in the centre of ancient Petra.

The church is a tripartite basilica, with a long central nave flanked by two side aisles, with all three ending in inscribed apses. The internal division of the church into a nave and two aisles is created by two parallel rows of eight columns each, with capitals in the Corinthian, Composite Corinthian, and Doric styles, as well as a new type of capital decorated with four volutes and a simple, continuous egg-and-dart moulding. It is assumed that most if not all the capitals were re-used from previous structures. The church is estimated to have stood 13 metres high.

Each of the three aisles had its own entrance in the west wall, and the door jambs of the middle door leading into the nave are well preserved. The east end of the central apse had a synthronon installation (a semi-circular

stepped structure) with a large chancel podium in front of it — both of which were added to the church after its initial construction. The chancel podium was originally paved by white marble and red shale shaped in geometric patterns, though only a few fragments remain in their original place. From the chancel podium three marble steps lead down to the floor of the central nave (the marble for the steps was probably re-used from the external staircase of the Qasr El-Bint Nabataean temple in the city-centre, which still retains some of its original marble pieces).

The two side aisles were separated from their apses by handsome white marble screens decorated with geometric patterns and religious symbols. Many fragments of the apse furnishings have been recovered and partially restored to their original shape, including the marble screens and posts, two marble columnettes, and an altar table.

Outside the west wall and the main entrances to the church was a large atrium — a partially roofed, courtyard-like area paved in stone and surrounded on three sides by a colonnade, with a stone bench along the southern wall. Some religious ceremonies may have taken place in the atrium, which also could have accommodated overflow crowds during major religious ceremonies. While atriums are common in Byzantine churches, this one is unusually large — measuring 15 X 16 metres internally (excluding the "tower" structure in the south-west corner of the atrium). The function of the tower is not yet known. It has a stone-slab pavement and stone benches along the north and east walls. Its original entrances in the north and east walls were blocked up in some subsequent phase of its use, but it is clearly an integral part of the original church complex and not a later addition or earlier relic. It was clearly a tower-like structure that was taller than the adjacent atrium walls, judging from its internal arches and the large number of collapsed stones inside it.

The church and the atrium were also accessible through three doors in the north wall of the complex, near two or more rooms associated with the church, but whose extent is not known because they have not been fully excavated. The southern door in the west wall, leading into the south aisle of the church, had a swinging-door system with its bronze hinges still in situ, along with a charred wooden threshold. Flanking the central entrance of the church are beautifully decorated stones (crosses, floral motifs and medallions with human heads in low relief — probably all re-used from earlier buildings). In the exterior east wall is a Greek commemorative inscription on an upside down re-used stone block (the inscription mentions a certain Athemos, son

of Makianos). Another re-used stone has an inscription mentioning the Nabataean King Aretas IV.

The outer walls of the church are preserved up to three and a half metres in some places, though the workmanship of the walls is not particularly impressive — in contrast to the splendid interior decoration. The central and lower sections of the main walls were plastered, and many fragments of plaster painted in red, blue and yellow were found in the rubble, though not in situ. Many construction elements (cut stones, column drums, capitals, door jambs, and reliefs) were clearly re-used from ruined Nabataean and Roman structures in the vicinity. The nearby Nabataean Temple of the Winged Lions was certainly an important quarry for the church, providing it with capitals and other architectural fragments, including column bases that were used to build the main walls. Some of the re-used door jambs may have come from the many shops alongside the colonnaded main street, which were known to have been abandoned or ruined after the 363 earthquake, a full century before the church is believed to have been first built. A new phase of shops of lesser



The personification of the sea in the mosaic of the south aisle (note the oar and the ship in the hands, and the fish underneath).

quality, and intruding onto the sidewalk, were built along the colonnaded street in the late 4th/5th century, at the same time as the life of the church. The remains of these later shops can still be seen today in central Petra.

The most striking thing about the church is its array of well preserved floor mosaics in the northern and southern aisles, each mosaic floor measuring some 70 square



General view of the church from the east, showing the mosaics of the south aisle

metres. The mosaics are still being painstakingly restored and protected by a team of American and Italian conservators (Livia Alberti, Thomas Roby, and Noel Siver, assisted by two Jordanian trainee conservators, Fatima Mari and Nayef Zaban). The central nave did not have any mosaics; it was paved in marble slabs in opus sectile style, and is only preserved in a

found throughout the remains of the church, including some that were gilded, suggest that some parts of the church were brilliantly decorated. Glass mosaics probably adorned the upper sections of the walls, the arches over the column capitals, and the semi-dome over the central apse (there may also have been semi-domes over the two side apses). Hundreds of small fragments of intact glass mosaics have been retrieved from the church (including two small fragments of faces), and some parts of the floor mosaics are also done in glass. A large quantity of fragments of wall mosaics have been recovered from the rubble, but only two fragments were still attached to the underlying stone. The church's interior mosaic wall and ceiling decoration probably resembled the wall mosaics in the church at St. Catherine's Monastery, in Sinai, Egypt.

Unusually, no mosaic inscriptions have been found (other than words identifying the representations of the four seasons and other anthropomorphic motifs). This is unusual because most Byzantine churches include dedicatory inscriptions mentioning the year the church was built, the bishop of the day, and/or the benefactors who financed the church. It is possible that the inscription in the Petra church was written on a stone or plaster slab and has been destroyed.

The ceramics excavated from the church include pieces from the late Hellenistic, Nabataean/Roman, Byzantine and early Islamic eras, spanning a full millennium from the 2nd century BC to the early 8th century AD. The majority of pottery sherds were from the late Byzantine period (6th century), the most interesting find being a collection of 21 late Byzantine large storage jars that were found smashed in the south aisle of the church. Their contents have not been identified, but they were found next to two ceramic funnels, hinting that they held some liquid substance. Some late Byzantine pottery was imported from Syria and perhaps Egypt, while distinctive African Red Slip Ware sherds came originally from North Africa (and are commonly found throughout Jordan). Black glazed pottery from Hellenistic levels was imported from the Aegean region in the 2nd/1st centuries BC.

Other excavated finds from the church include coins (many from the 4th century, but only but one-third of the coins have been cleaned and identified to date); bronze and iron door installations (hinges, mounts); thousands of iron nails; pieces of glass; fragments of a bronze cross; many fragments of glass flasks and window panes; ostraca (pottery sherds with writing on them); an engraved amethyst gem with a portrait of a bearded head, perhaps a deity, with an abbreviated Greek or Latin

inscription; and a finely sculpted Nabataean stone human head that formed part of a column capital.

One of the most striking finds is a large (almost one-metre-high and half-metre-wide) marble vessel shaped like a pedestaled basin whose handles are formed by two dramatic lions in full sculpture. The vessel, which was reconstructed from over 100 fragments, appears too small to have been a baptismal font, and its function is still being assessed. The marble appears to have been imported, but it is not known if the entire piece was made here of imported marble or was shipped to Petra already finished. It was found in situ next to one of the column bases, between two columns and directly on the southern stylobate, to where it will be returned once it is completely restored.

The many pieces of charred wood, broken wall plaster, and scattered mortar help to reconstruct the church's history. On the basis of the pottery evidence and stylistic parallels of the mosaic designs and architectural decoration with other churches in Palestine/Jordan, the Petra church seems to have been built in the late 5th century. At some point in its life the church suffered a fire that brought down its wooden roof and caused its parishers to abandon it, after which the local inhabitants removed the marble floor in the central nave for re-use elsewhere in the city. They only removed the geometric-shaped small marble pieces, and left behind larger marble slabs. They may have taken other valuable decorative or religious objects, including the reliquary (the container full of religiously symbolic relics) which has not been found.

The structure's walls and columns finally collapsed totally during an earthquake sometime in the 6th century. One possible candidate is the major earthquake of 551 A.D. The collapsed ruins of the church continued to be used by squatters, on the basis of evidence for squatter occupation in the atrium and south aisle. The pottery from these squatter occupations suggests that some parts of the structure continued to be used into the early Islamic era (late 7th/early 8th centuries).

The interesting historical question that is raised by the church discovery relates to the condition and status of Petra and its Christian population in the 5th/6th centuries, when the region of southern Jordan is generally thought to have experienced a long and gradual decline — at the south-eastern frontier of the Byzantine empire, and in the waning years of Byzantine culture in this distant corner of the empire.

(Continued on page B)

All photos by Bronwyn Douglas, used by courtesy of the photographer and ACOR.

Diary

ENTHUSIASTIC FIRST-TIMERS: Premier Abdul Salam Al Majali apparently wanted his government to look so new that he recruited only three ministers from his predecessor's government. One has to inject new blood into the executive authority, the new prime minister must have thought while inadvertently dropping "young," from his line of thinking. That was the first message about the government's make-up. And then there was the message that the new ministers are anxious to work at all times. So Dr. Abdul Salam called his first cabinet meeting for 8:30 in the morning of their first day in office to which all the new ministers arrived half an hour early. The early arrival was the right opportunity for the new ministers to show excitement while the three veteran ministers looked on in silence. For those who need a reminder the "old" ministers were Ziad Fariz, Yanal Hikmat and Mahmoud Al Semra. The chatter continued and the excitement increased to which Mr. Fariz turned to Mr. Hikmat and asked him: "Don't you get the feeling that our situation resembles that of those who have failed in their exams and are repeating the year with a new class of youngsters?" Perhaps that is true, but we think Dr. Fariz should have excused the new ministers for their thrill on that day. For sources tell the diary that they had just received their shiny new red passports, a task that needed the opening of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the first day of 'Eid Al Adha holidays and the summoning of a special calligrapher to pen down the names of the 27 new excellencies.

☆☆☆

THE CODE OF ADDRESS: After decades of practising the codes to address the afandis, beiks, utofais, saadats, maalis and pashas of Jordan, the rest of us, titleless people, are getting persisting pains in the neck — from looking up at it. But apparently we are also becoming a pain in the neck of those who feel that we have not learnt our lesson in the code of address well enough. A fellow journalist was trying to get information on a meeting between the Prime Minister, Abdul Salam Al Majali, and the speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat. The story was especially important because of the controversy about a possible change in the national election law and the Parliament's declared opposition to any such changes. Our colleague was pressing the premier about the details of the meeting in the hall of Parliament. "Pasha, could you tell us about your meeting with (Maali) Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat?" to which he got a general answer. "But, pasha, did you and Maali Al Ductor discuss the Parliament's opposition to changes in the law?" he persisted. Dr. Majali was becoming visibly agitated by the reporter, who by the way was accompanied by quite a number of other journalists. The minister of information, Dr. Maan Abu Nuwar, therefore felt that an end must be put to this questioning by the journalists, so he moved quickly towards them, lifted his hand in their face, pointed his finger at one — who by the way had not yet asked any questions — raised his voice and said: "What is this? Don't you know the rules of the code of address?" The poor journalist did not respond. But many of the journalistic ranks now think that we have to be included in the array of titles that seem to grace everyone in the Kingdom, and perhaps some rule should be written about pointing fingers.

☆☆☆

CYNICS WITH POLITICAL TONGUES: "Who said this is a transitional government? We are making plans for the next 20 years." Thus spoke a junior minister at a recent gathering. An eyewitness said the new minister referring to members of Parliament said: "We are making plans for the next 20 years, and they (parliamentarians) would be lucky if they could make plans for the next 20 days." The eyewitness interpreted this statement as hinting that this government would be staying on beyond the forthcoming elections and that His Majesty the King would be dissolving Parliament when he returns from his U.S. trip. One member of the Lower House did not hide his dismay with the minister who also reportedly said that this government would "decide" who wins and who loses in the elections. Observers say that statements similar to those by the newcomer to the Cabinet are embarrassing the premier who has been trying to stress the democratic nature of his government. But one has to admit, however, that Prime Minister Majali himself hinted in last week's informal meeting with the press that his government might very well continue beyond November. A former government minister commenting in private on what is being heard, said that this Cabinet is behaving as though the past four years of democracy have never taken place. Cynics for politicians all the way.

Nermeen Murad

Peace talks focus on self-rule plan

(Continued from page 1)

Israel and — to a lesser extent — the United States responsible for what she says is a progressively more difficult Middle East peace process.

Dr. Ashrawi offered a grim assessment of the peace process on Tuesday after a negotiating session at the State Department. The session was curtailed when the building was evacuated because a small fire ignited by a welder sent smoke through the air ducts.

"I don't have any good news for you," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters after negotiations resumed following a month long recess.

She said unilateral Israeli acts, including sealing off the occupied territories and elsewhere, had soured the negotiating atmosphere.

"We feel that the issue of Jerusalem has been thrust at the forefront because Israel decided to shape the final outcome and the permanent status of Jerusalem and the occupied territories," she said. "It's preempting the outcome of negotiations, and it is rendering any talks on Jerusalem and negotiations irrelevant."

At another point, she called Israel's policies "unworkable, illegal and counterproductive."

Dr. Ashrawi also said the United States, as full partner in the negotiations, should pressure Israel not to take actions that could sabotage the talks.

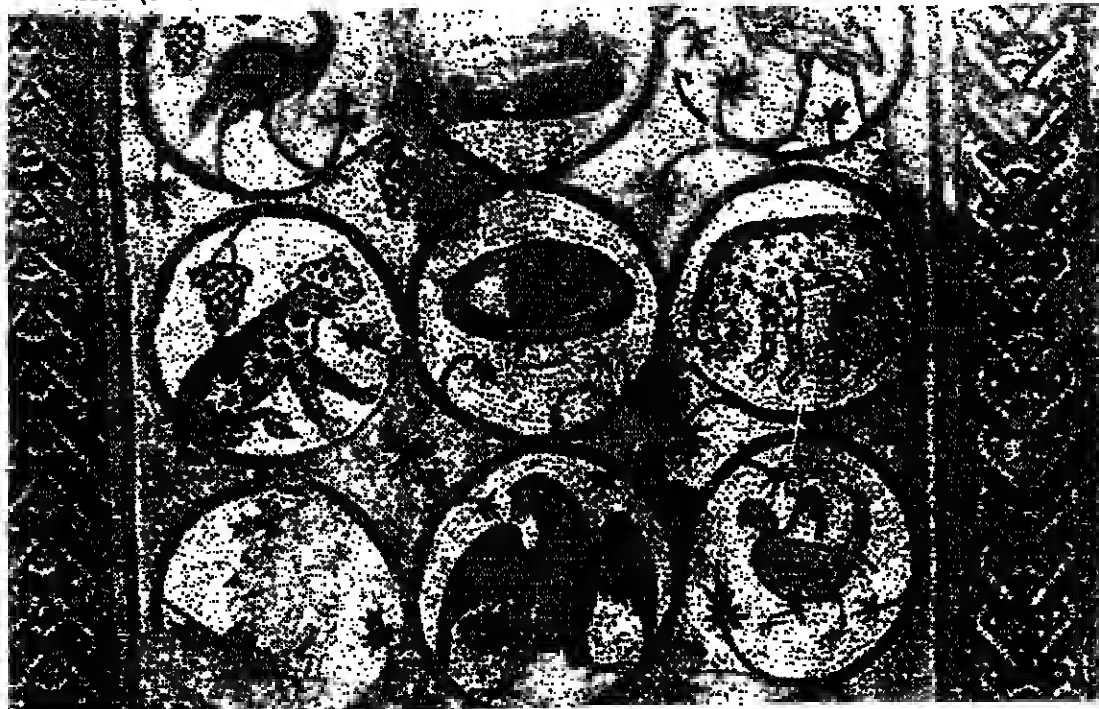
Attempts by the United States "to limit the peace process only to what happens on the table or at the verbal level is not going to lead to any progress," she said.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry declined comment. Israeli spokeswoman Ruth Yaron offered a more upbeat assessment, raising the possibility Israel and the Palestinians could agree on a joint statement of principle during the current round if there is a lot of effort and good will.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators announced Tuesday the formation of a working group to draft a joint statement of principles on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

The new working group is the latest in a series of committees formed by the two delegations, others having been set up to discuss water and land issues and human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The newly-formed working group and the one dealing with human rights were to begin their negotiations Wednesday.



A close-up of some of the floor mosaic rondels with animals, and what appears to be the head of a fish on a plate in the central rondel

Thousands of glass tesserae

Hollywood discovers the bard

By John Horn
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Thanks to Kenneth Branagh, Hollywood has discovered a hot new screenwriter.

His name: William Shakespeare.

The script for "Much Ado About Nothing" has been kicking around for almost 400 years. Not until Branagh touched it would it arrive in English-language cinemas. Now, just about everybody — including show business types who think the bard is some trendy restaurant — has fallen in love with Shakespeare's love story.

Branagh didn't just adapt Shakespeare's dark comedy about a fustian and jealous suitors to the screen. He also directs and stars.

Branagh, who acts in all the films he directs, plays Benedick, a young lord back from battle. His off-screen wife, "Howards End" Oscar-winner Emma Thompson, co-stars as Benedick's romantic foil, Beatrice. Joining these two Brits in the

cast are American actors Denzel Washington, Michael Keaton and Keanu Reeves.

"Much Ado About Nothing" alights four years after "Henry V," in which Branagh made his splashy directorial debut in the title role of Shakespeare's historical play. In the intervening period, he directed and starred in the original film noir thriller "Dead Again," but stumbled with last year's ensemble story "Peter's Friends."

Despite an obvious flair and precocious talent both behind and in front of the camera, the 32-year-old Branagh often has seen his work compared to others' efforts. His "Henry V" stood squarely with the preceding version by Laurence Olivier, but "Peter's Friends" was dismissed as a half-baked retread of "The Big Chill."

His next film will be another take on Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," sire of countless movies.

With "Much Ado," there can be no comparisons. There have been two Rus-

sian, one German and one silent American movie version of "Much Ado" — that's it.

"It's the first film I've made that hasn't been instantly classified against another film," Branagh said with relief.

"This is, as it were, a more original example of being able to make a film that doesn't seem overtly to refer to other pictures. And that's one of the reasons why I chose it. Also, it's unique. It's more contemporary sounding — all the dialogue is more realistic and it has a more conversational tone. It's more immediate."

Instead of using the often tongue-twisting verse that fills most of Shakespeare's plays, the two protagonists in "Much Ado" speak in free flowing prose.

With their snappy rejoinders and droll digressions about relationships, Benedick and Beatrice are not far from the bickering couples of "Moonlighting" or any number of television situation comedies.

Yet Branagh's attraction was not limited to the play's inviting language. He finds much more about "Much Ado," probably written in the late 1590s, to be modern. Beyond Benedick and Beatrice, there's Claudio and his fiancée, Hero — Claudio a rather typical example of the impulsive, distrustful men who give the gender a bad name.

"I think those relationships are very recognisable — that kind of love-at-first-sight abandon that Claudio and Hero go for is something that we can all understand, identify and sympathise with to some extent," Branagh said.

"I think there's a lesson there about the nature of love. Should one encourage the abandon, the kind of total enslavement to feelings that Claudio has dangerously? Because when it turns, he behaves with viciousness. Or is the sort of self-protection that Beatrice and Benedick go through somehow better? They use irony and wit to stop their hearts from being broken."

When Claudio and his attendants too readily believe Hero to be unfaithful, Branagh said, it's nothing but modern romance. "Somebody I know saw it the other day and said, 'Christ, those guys behave just as if they were in college.'" Then, slipping into a perfect frat-boy accent, Branagh continues the parody: "...She went out with that guy, but she goes out with me."

Even though the movie, filmed in an Italian villa, is draped in sunlight and gauzy fabrics, its message should not be seen as entirely bright, Branagh said. While the play's two central love stories turn out well enough, Shakespeare's perspective is gloomy.

In fact, you can make the argument — and some have — that Branagh's interpretation is overly upbeat.

"He says, I suppose, repeatedly: It isn't all just about parties and playing and flowers and being lovely," Branagh said of the playwright's intentions. "It's messy and grubby and requires more



Kenneth Branagh (upper right) in a scene from Henry V

commitment than we ever think, and asks the characters whether they want to do that, and asks us that as well. "Also, there's the danger of losing yourself, that in falling in love you will give away part of yourself, you will become one creature made out of two instead of an individual."

To open the film, Branagh sets aside the text and instead quotes from a song delivered by the singer Balthazar in the play's second act. The lyrics include this dismal assessment: "Men were deceivers ever/one foot in sea and one in shore/to one thing constant never."

Thanks to its cast, "Much Ado" stands out as a distinctly international production. "I wanted non-British voices in it," Branagh said. "I didn't want to imply somehow that the Brits know how to do it. I don't think we have the monopoly on it. And I think there are many disadvantages to having him as the national playwright."

At 60, oldest U.S. ballet company is hailed as one of its best

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — As it celebrates its 60th year, the San Francisco Ballet, the oldest U.S. ballet company, has joined the top rank of the nation's dance troupes, wowing critics and playing to sold-

out houses coast to coast.

Under the leadership of Helgi Tomasson, artistic director since 1985, critics and dancers say the company has been transformed from a worthy regional company,

overshadowed by New York troupes, into one of the leading companies in the United States.

"It's one of the best companies in America today," said Tina Leblanc, a veteran of New York's Joffrey Ballet who defected to San Francisco this season.

With a repertoire ranging from Swan Lake to a world premiere by an avant-garde French choreographer, the company's performances this season have been glowingly received on both coasts of the United States.

"...It was clear that the company had won the hearts of its New York audience," Anna Kisselgoff, dance critic for the "New York Times," wrote following the company's April-New York tour, which included three sold-out

performances of Swan Lake. Visiting choreographers have also been impressed.

"The richest part of the company is that each of the dancers is very different," Redha, the French choreographer, said, after working with the company on a world premiere of his work, his first collaboration with a U.S. company.

The company is also distinguished by its relatively sound financial shape, at a time when many major troupes are struggling.

Although the San Francisco Ballet has an accumulated deficit of \$3.2 million, it made a small profit last year and expects to at least break even this year. Unlike some other major companies, it says it will not lay off any dancers.

A major foundation recently announced it would donate \$336,000 to help fund a lavish new staging of Romeo and Juliet which will anchor the ballet's 1994 season.

Critics and dancers give much of the credit for the company's rebirth to Tomasson, who has made artistic breadth the company's hallmark.

Iceland-born Tomasson, 51, a protégé of world-famous choreographer George Balanchine, reinforced the dancers' classical training, which also enhanced their modern dance skills.

"He's guided the company to such a place and to such a level that it's challenging and it's inspiring to be here," said rising star Elizabeth Loscavo.

Marilyn Tucker, dance critic for the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper, applauded the company's recent performance in a modern dance programme including Redha's La Pavane Rouge.

"What these dances demonstrated more than anything is the amazing strength and resilience of today's San Francisco Ballet Company," Tucker wrote.

The company reflects Tomasson's stress on emotions.

"It's not just doing the steps," Tomasson said. "Dance is much more than that. It's about emotions and feelings, and being able to transport that across the footlights."

Evelyn Cisneros, a principal dancer who has been with

the company since 1977, typifies the company's physical versatility and its emotional expressiveness.

Cisneros recently performed the lead in Swan Lake one night and the Redha piece the next, showing she is as at home with the linear moves of classical ballet as with the circular, more flexible movements of modern dance.

In La Pavane Rouge, Cisneros was a woman reliving her memories as the other dancers, representing visions of her former selves, her friends and lovers, paraded by.

"This is a dancer at a high level," Redha said. "Evelyn is a very sensitive part of her, very warm, very delicate, very sensitive, and

strong." Cisneros recalls an early collaboration with Tomasson that illustrates his connection with his dancers.

Shortly after replacing Michael Smuin as artistic director, Tomasson choreographed Confidencia for Cisneros.

"It was my story, because it was about a woman who was expressing being torn from one side to the other, which is how I felt," Cisneros said, referring to her divided loyalties between Tomasson and Smuin, with whom she had worked for years.

"I couldn't give up on one or the other. And yet they were on opposite sides, and in her soul brought who she was," (Tomasson) really exploited that within the solo," she said. "It was really poignant."

Jurassic Park is ultimate coupling of film and computer

By John Enders
The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, California — "Jurassic Park," a thriller about a dinosaur theme park gone mad, is a milestone in the increasingly popular coupling of computers and films.

From 1950s "B" movies featuring mad scientists who use massive mainframe computers to conquer the world, to the high-tech maiming of Meryl Streep in "Death Becomes Her," movies and megabytes are getting cozier.

And "Jurassic Park," according to Steven Spielberg's \$56 million film, represents a new level in the high-tech-Hollywood connection.

"In most movies, when they portray computers they don't show computers because they think they only can be run by priests as a rule," said Mike Backes, who supervised the use of computer display graphics in the film.

"What's different about 'Jurassic Park' is that when you see a computer, it is a computer," he said.

Much of the plot revolves around the young heroine who figures out how to get the damaged computer system working again, saving the lives of the people being chased by the hungry creatures.

"Computers not only were used in the filming and post-production work, but to create the dinosaurs themselves."

One million dollar's worth of computer workstations, running state-of-the-art, three-dimensional graphics software are featured in the control room. Workstations are relatively inexpensive yet high-powered computers used mostly by engineers and scientists.

And Mr. Spielberg, according to publicists, even used digital direct tie-lines that delivered broadcast-quality images so he could communicate by satellite while he was in Poland, filming the holocaust story "Schindler's

Silicon Graphics, Inc., a leader in the field of 3-D graphics software and the workstation processors that run it, provided the computer equipment and engineers.

The technology allows actors using the computers to "fly through" the island's power plant to evaluate a disastrous shutdown and an approaching storm. Central to the plot are efforts to reconstruct the computer network to get the theme-park control system back online and to monitor radio signals from people on the island.

The "island" itself is a sophisticated 3-D animation. The tie between computers and movies goes back many years.

"Subliminally, it was a lot of the 'B' movies of the '50s that a lot of kids were raised on (that led them) to kind of embrace the future as having not necessarily evil but definitely wild technology," said Mr. Backes.

"A lot of the mad-scientist movies often provided inspiration for people to go beyond the conventional thinking as to how technology could be used creatively."

But not until the 1980s did the capabilities of computer graphics and 3-D imaging gain wide acceptance in the film industry.

"Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) featured a computer-generated man made of stained glass; "The Abyss" (1989) includes a vivid scene in which sea water forms into a creature that invades an underwater vessel; and "Tin Toy," a short film by Pixar, won an Academy Award in 1987 for its technical features.

In 1991, "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" and its indestructible metal killing machine, and "Beauty and the Beast," with its striking ballroom scene animation, were released.

Industrial Light and Magic, a division of Lucas Digital Ltd., produced the visual effects in "Jurassic Park." ILM has worked with silicon graphics hardware and software since 1987.

By Rich Harris
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Seven years, one month and two days after Cleveland won the right to rock 'n' roll, the city is ready to strap on its blue suede shoes.

Ground will finally be broken this week on the much-ballyhooed, but much-delayed Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

Since the May 5, 1986, announcement in New York City that Cleveland would get the museum, the price tag has ballooned and the site has shifted.

Workers began clearing the Lake Shore plot for the \$84 million music shrine, designed by big-name architect I.M. Pei, in April. But the last piece of the financial puzzle fell into place only weeks ago, finally guar-

anteeing the hall would be built.

Clevelanders, ever sensitive about the city's image as the "mistake on the lake" yet cynical about its desire to be recognized as a comeback city, grouched that the hall might never be built.

In 1952, Cleveland disc jockey Alan Freed used the words "rock and roll" to refer to the music generally known as rhythm and blues.

His coined phrase became Cleveland's most valuable currency in its bid for the rock 'n' roll hall of fame built elsewhere than in the city where the phenomenon got its name.

But Cleveland's spirited bid left many people unenthused. Traditional big guys like New York, Chicago and Philadelphia were throwing

their weight around, and cities with strong musical histories such as New Orleans, Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee, were courting the hall's New York-based foundation board.

Cleveland was persistent. In January 1986, U.S.A. Today asked its readers where the hall should be built. Cleveland got 110,315 call-in votes, 15 times the number received by its nearest competitor, Memphis, which had 7,268 votes.

In Cleveland, jubilation reigned.

"The history is here, the support is here, the rock hall should be here," the city's daily newspaper, The Plain Dealer, said in an editorial. "Roll over, Beethoven, tell Tchaikovsky the news."

Five months later, Ahmet Ertegun, chief of Atlantic

Records and chairman of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, called Cleveland "almost an inevitable choice."

But Cleveland struggled to get the hall off the drawing board. Planners switched from a site near downtown's landmark terminal tower to a plot on the Lake Erie shore.

Pei's plans for a glass-and-steel pyramid evolved into a more conventional design.

Fund-raising efforts lost steam, and estimated costs zoomed from the original \$20 million at the project's inception to \$48 million by mid-1989.

By November 1989, the New York foundation issued an ultimatum: raise \$40 million or give up the project.

Cleveland scraped it together through donations and pledges from corporations,

government, citizens and others.

The price tag continued to grow, topping \$80 million.

Two months after Benz took over, a frustrated fan donated his prized collection of Elvis Presley memorabilia to the hall, saying he hoped it would move the project forward.

"I believe the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame will do for Cleveland what Disney World did for Orlando, Florida, declared lawyer Howard Krantz, whose donation included Elvis' karate jacket and racquetball shirt.

In April, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority approved the last piece of financing, a \$38 million bond sale. But even as backers were announcing the groundbreaking, a flap arose when an all-star rock revue, plan-

ned to coincide with the kick-off ceremonies, had to be canceled.

Artists including Paul McCartney had agreed to participate. But concert promoter Jules Belkin said time was just too short to coordinate the concert for this week.

Last week, hall officials stood outside the display windows of the shuttered May Co. department store on public square. The windows were filled with life-size cutouts of some of the hall's inductees, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Ike and Tina Turner.

"This is just the beginning of a couple-week celebration to say to the world — to the world — that this is a world project," Benz said. "The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is going to happen."

Pavlova's ashes play leading role in epic mystery

By Sara Henley
Reuters

AMSTERDAM — More than 60 years after her death, Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova is playing the central role in a swan song almost as passionate as a Tchaikovsky score, orchestrated by two Pavlova fanatics.

A mystery with epic aspirations, it combines communism, exile, royalty, illegitimacy, chicanery and outright greed.

It centres on a marble urn of ashes reposing in a crematorium in the north London suburb of Golders Green.

The remains of the world's most famous ballerina, a refugee after the Bolshevik Revolution adored for her performances of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake, have been kept near her London home since she died without leaving a will in the Hague in 1931.

Two Dutch painters, Jean Thomassen and Ine Veen, insist Pavlova's deepest wish was to return "to her beloved Russia" once the Communists were ousted. For years they have campaigned for her ashes to be returned in a blaze of pomp and glory.

"It's scandalous," said Mr. Thomassen. "The most famous dancer in the world deserves more than this, there should be an eternal flame and flowers, a monument. Not an urn locked up in the dust."

Mr. Thomassen and Mr. Veen have used official documents to persuade Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Russian officials and the crematorium's directors to take the matter seriously.

The Russian embassy in London has even considered making a formal request for the ashes.

So far their campaign has

succeeded only in fanning jealous outrage among British ballet aficionados and confusion about what Pavlova would really have wanted.

It does not help that in life Pavlova, who was born illegitimate in 1881, was surrounded by fantasy and said little on the record.

Even her famous alleged last words, "prepare my swan costume" are fiction, according to Keith Money, British author of a biography of the dancer published in 1982. His research shows they were in fact "play that last measure softly."

The farrago revolves around Pavlova's business manager and putative husband Victor Dandré, a shadowy, money-grubbing figure who ran her life, organised her publicity stunts and seems to have tried to keep the Pavlova till ringing after her death.

Instead of cancelling per-

formances after Pavlova died, Mr. Thomassen said Dandré would have the lights come up on an empty stage in a ghostly tableau.

And it is in Dandré's documents that the controversy lies.

His will authorised his trustees "to consent to the removal of the ashes of my wife ... to Russia" if conditions were right. Pavlova's death certificate also bears the words "and domiciled in Russia" next to her London address.

For Mr. Thomassen and Mr. Veen, these are pointers to Pavlova's desire to return. But for money and crematorium director Harvey Thomas, they are far from conclusive.

Although Dandré had himself listed as Pavlova's husband on her death certificate, there is no proof he ever married her.

"It's never been finally

nailed on the head," said Mr. Money. Pavlova once hinted she had married Dandré, but she later registered herself as single in a passport application, he said.

After she died, Dandré fought and lost a sordid lawsuit against her mother, ending in his eviction from Pavlova's house.

The handwritten death certificate seems to have been tampered with, as the reference to Russia is clearly in different writing from the rest of the document. Mr. Money suspects this was a ruse by Dandré or his lawyers to escape British death duties on Pavlova's estate.

No one disputes that Dandré was a villain. In his memoirs he says he was travelling with Pavlova at a time when he was actually serving time in a Russian prison for fraud.

"How often did Dandré

ever do the right thing by Pavlova?" Mr. Money said. "He was always making plans for her to dance her feet off."

"She was a very naive woman delivered to the wolves," said Mr. Thomassen. He even alleges Dandré "robbed her on her death bed", running off to London to empty her British bank accounts while she lay dying of pleurisy in a Dutch hotel.

Unfortunately for the Dutch campaign, Golders Green officials argue Dandré's skulluggery has cast too much doubt on Pavlova's supposed last wish for her remains to be returned.

"Nothing is going to happen in the immediate future," said Mr. Thomas, non-executive director at the London crematorium company which has supervised the ashes since she died. About two or three visitors call to see the ashes a week, he said.

Mid-life crisis

By Jean-Claude Elias

If the users of personal computers (PC) are finding it hard to follow up the extraordinary development of this technology, they should be comforted. Most manufacturers are also facing hard times catching up with their competitors and some of the biggest and most famous names in the industry have suffered substantial losses in 1992.

Without maybe realising it, the end-user is the winner of a merciless war between manufacturers, often leading to a drastic drop in prices. The industry's problems are not the same in the east — Taiwan, Singapore, Korea — and in the west — U.S.A., Italy, Britain, Germany, and France. While western manufacturers are unable to compete at prices level, eastern companies, quite ironically, still depend on their western rivals for technology innovation and the development of the main CPU (Central Processing Unit), the PC's main chip.

Intel, the main designer and manufacturer of PC's CPU, has just released the new Pentium chip, considered as the new "386" processor. The current line of CPUs, from slowest to fastest, features the 286, 386 and 486. Should the Pentium not be available to them, a very unlikely event, all eastern manufacturers would soon go out of business.

It is important to make a clear distinction between manufacturers and so-called "assemblers." Companies like IBM, Olivetti, Hewlett-Packard, Compaq, to name only a few, can definitely be considered as manufacturers. The rest, the vast majority, especially in the east, use components and parts they purchase from other manufacturers to build their computers. This is tempered by the fact that manufacturers do not produce themselves all the components, just as the "assemblers" do manufacture some of the computer's parts.

A simplified list of the PC's different components can be

chip talk



drawn as follows: The PC casing or cabinet, the power supply unit, the mother board (the main electronic board), the CPU, the floppy disk drives, the hard disk, the memory chips, the screen and the keyboard. This in addition to optional items like the mouse, the printer, and so on... A skilled hobbyist, equipped with simple tools and a clear manual can buy separately all these components and build up his own computer in less than a day.

The companies that are currently making the highest profits are those producing and selling separate components whether to manufacturers, "assemblers", or end-users. They are usually highly specialised, hard disk designers more particularly, and are less affected by temporary, negative market fluctuations. On the contrary, they often have to satisfy a strong demand from the manufacturers.

The next four to six years should show the direction the PC industry is taking. The tug-of-war between American and European companies from one side and Far Eastern from the other is stronger than ever now but cannot last much longer. Again, the end-user should have nothing to worry about, he'll be the obvious winner in the end.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

- In Virginia state, USA, there is a special museum for spiders.
- An 18th century British wealthy man paid £700 to one of the monks so as to accept living in a cave located in his garden.
- An Australian confessed of committing 24 crimes after watching The Ten Assailants. He was sentenced to a six-year imprisonment.
- A famous, rich American recommended the renewal and development of a dormitory block at Goniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, provided that only red-haired girl-students be allowed to stay in.

SAY IT IN ARABIC

Common Phrases

- I am busy today. We can meet next Friday.
Ana mashgul el youm. Monken mit'abalet Juma' el jayy.
- I am hungry. Fetch me some food, please.
Ana j'ane. Hat baad el ta'am min tadlak.
- I am thirsty. May I have a glass of water?
Ana ashman. Monken tijibi kubbayet mayy?
- I am feverish. I want an "aspirin" with a glass of lemonade.
Ana sakhan. Ayez kubbayet lamunada wi-aspireena.
- I am very tired. I need some rest.
Ana tabaan jiddan. Ana fi haja ela raha.
- I am sleepy. Please, switch the light off.
Ana nasaan. Arjok taffi el noor.
- I've offended you. Forgive me. Ana ahantak. Samehul.
- I am satisfied with you. Ana mabsoot minnak.

COOKING IS FUN

STUFFED MARROW WITH YOGURT SAUCE

Ingredients

- 1 kg marrow-peeled and with seeds scooped out.
- 1 1/2 cups rice-washed and drained.
- 1/2 kg minced meat.
- 1 chicken stock cube.
- 1/2 tsp butter.
- Water
- Salt and pepper to taste.

FOR THE SAUCE

- 1 carton yogurt.
- 2 tsp corn flour.
- 1/3 cup water.
- 2 tsp dried mint.
- Salt to taste.

METHOD

Combine minced meat with rice, salt, pepper, butter. Mix well. Fill marrows 3/4 full with meat/rice mixture. Gently place in a pot, cover with water and add chicken stock cube. Simmer on a gentle heat for 10 minutes, then lower flame further and cook for about 45 minutes or until marrows are tender but still firm enough to hold stuffing. Dissolve corn flour in water, add yogurt and beat

vigorously. Cook on a low flame, stirring constantly, until mixture is creamy, then add mint.

Remove stuffed marrow from water, place on a serving dish and cover with sauce. (Serves 4 to 5).

HUMOUR

An Irish schoolmaster offered a reward to any boy who could tell him who was the greatest man in history.

"Christopher Columbus," said one boy.

"George Washington," answered another.

"St. Patrick," shouted out a little Jewish boy.

"The prize is yours," said the schoolmaster. "But tell me how came you to think of St. Patrick?"

"Well, right down in my heart, I knew it was Moses," replied the boy, "but business is business."

PARTY GAMES

The Horror Game

This game can cause a considerable amount of amusement among teenagers and adults. The location must be used on whether to introduce it at a party, as the very squeamish or those with a known tendency to fainting may well find it most distasteful. Some considerable preparation is also required, as will be seen.

All the players sit round a table in complete darkness. The story-teller, being as dramatic and sepulchral as possible, tells a story of how a murder was committed and how the murderer, to hide the body, dismembered it. As each part of the body is mentioned an object is passed round the table for each one to feel. Not until the object reaches the story-teller again does he continue his account. He might say, for instance, "First of all the murderer chopped off the victim's head". He then passes a cabbage or a melon round. "Then he gouged out the eyes..." (two soft grapes go round the table) "and then the brains were removed" (a damp sponge is passed from hand to hand), and so on.

Some suitable things for various parts of the body might be as below:

- Hands, Rubber gloves stuffed with earth.
- Toes or fingers. Small, thin carrots.
- Ears. Dried figs or apricots.
- Hair. Hank of wool or silk.
- Tongue. Piece of rubber or plastic material, etc.

PUZZLES

Heads Alike

Although the "heads" of these mammals are the same on paper it doesn't necessarily follow that they are alike. Very much the reverse, in fact. Can you fill in the missing letters and reveal them in their entirety? The missing letters are indicated by dots.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. COY... | COY... |
| 2. JACK... | JACK... |
| 3. KO... BEAR | KO... BEAR |
| 4. MAN... | MAN... |
| 5. MON... | MON... |
| 6. PAN... | PAN... |
| 7. POR... | POR... |
| 8. WAL... | WAL... |

From the cradle to the grave

By E. Yaghi

Never feel guilty about learning.

Never feel guilty about wisdom.

That is called enlightenment.

You must understand that you

have done what you needed

to do; it was all necessary.

And you made all the right

choices—all of them!

Tuesday morning, 10:30 a.m. The air felt promising and sweet as Carol headed towards her faculty with her youngest son at her side. His legs were long and thin which made her have trouble keeping up.

"How far is it?" the boy said glumly, with no apparent interest.

"Oh, just a bit more. What do you think all this water is doing in the street? Do you think a pipe is broken?" she asked.

"Who cares?" and "What difference does it make to us? Come on, let's keep moving. Be careful! Don't step in the water," he ordered as the two crossed over to the other side of the passageway. The faculty was close now.

As they walked nearer, she could see a group of students gathered by the outside windows trying to find their grades. She and her son joined them and they both began to search for her marks.

"It is a shame that it is a standard procedure to hang the grades in public so that all can see," she remarked to her son who seemed absorbed in another world. "What if someone fails or does poorly, then he or she will be very embarrassed. Grades are a personal and private affair. Only each recipient should know his or her own marks and no one else!"

Her son grunted a "yes" and kept on looking. At last they found all her marks but one. So giving up, she shrugged her shoulders and sighed, "I guess I'll have to forget about it for now. It's getting late. Shall we go home?"

He nodded appearing only too happy to escape further service.

On their way out of the university, Carol pointed to the rows and rows of pink and white rose bushes saying, "Look! Aren't they beautiful? The grass is ever so green and I love the smell of the pine trees, they remind me of my native state. To me, the green symbolises knowledge and the campus is a haven as well as a reminder of Paradise and a home away from home. I simply love everything but exams. I feel it is unfortunate that so many professors base their tests on memory and dates. Literature is a subject that should never rely heavily on memorisation but on original thinking. It is sad that instead of students grasping an ideal or the essence of a story or poem, they are forced to memorise unimportant facts and dates which have little relevance to comprehension of texts. I, for one, am bad in remembering such material and fail to see what difference it makes when some author or poet was born or died. I am more concerned with what he wrote and about his life and what impact did he make in his field than minute details that will be forgotten as soon as exams are over."

She glanced at her son. For a change he seemed to respond and even muttered a surprising, "Yeah, that's true. It's the same for us students in secondary school. We are forced to remember details and when we have tests, we must rewrite the text by rote back to our teachers."

"You know," she said as she and her son crossed back over the water which still poured non-stop onto the pavement, "I think that such a system produces stagnant minds. There is no room for growth, a way to develop an imagination, originality or free thinking. And when a professor does ask us to be original and think for ourselves, we are shocked and don't know what to do or how to

answer. The best grades, however, seldom go to the student who has comprehended the subject matter the most but to the one who is best in memorising! Intellectual maturity is stymied by the lack of enthusiastic guides who love the subjects they teach and who have the initiative to lead their students down the path of knowledge to discover new worlds which open up to curious minds. My highest grade was in such a subject where our professor asked us to think for ourselves and to grasp the concepts at hand. "Man cannot discover new oceans until he has courage to lose sight of the shore."

They walked on in silence after that, each one deep in thought. At the door of the university, the boy stopped a taxi. He climbed in front beside the driver while his mother got in back. She felt a little depressed by her grades and it was as if a cloud of gloom hung over her as she muttered to herself, "I did try so hard, God knows I did! What can I do more than how much I studied? It sure isn't easy being a mother, wife and student at the same time."

Trying to disguise her disappointment, she gulped down an urge to cry and stared at the white stone buildings which flashed before her. The cab pulled up to a gas station and the driver got out without saying a word. Her son turned around to look at her as if saying, "See, the drivers don't even tell the person they are going to stop."

She added out loud, "they keep the meter running too," as if she read his mind, "and they take their time putting gas in their tanks. Why didn't he do all this before he picked us up?"

As soon as she arrived home, Carol washed and rushed to the kitchen to prepare lunch. Her older son who was studying for tawjilhi approached, haggard and starved-looking and said, "What took you so long? I'm as hungry as a bear! I need food so that I'll have energy to study! When will lunch be ready?"

She smiled guiltily and replied, "Well, that's a nice welcome. It makes me feel wanted, at least as a cook. Lunch won't be long. I'm going to cook some spaghetti."

As she prepared the sauce and salted it with all sorts of spices, she couldn't help reminiscing about the past semester. "It's been the hardest semester I've ever had but thank God it's over. All in all, it wasn't so bad and in an ironic sort of way, I shall miss it. I will also miss those students who are graduating this year, especially my dear friend who is without sight. She was like a ray of sun in my life and she helped me see things I never saw before. She has an inner maturity and wisdom rare for someone her age, and what's more, she always made me laugh. I admired her spark, her vitality and her spirit as well as her intelligence. I will be lost without her!"

When they started eating lunch, which always seemed to Carol like feeding time at the zoo, she complained to her 12th grade son about her marks. He laughed and said, "Mom, you act as if your grades really make such a difference. You take your studies so seriously! Relax! What are you going to sit for your tawjilhi exams this year like me? One of us in the family is enough."

His amusement was contagious. She couldn't help grinning and answered, "You know son, I guess you're right. It's true, I'm not studying for a career or anything else. I'm studying for me, to improve myself and as a kind, and wise acquaintance of mine remarked the other day, no one can take my knowledge away from me. I have learned a lot, and gained even more. Though there is my age and nationality as a barrier, I have dear colleagues at the university and it is an experience that has changed my whole life. Everything, everyone I meet and know becomes a part of me and is embedded in my conscious. "From the cradle to the grave" is the best motto of all and certainly one can never be too old to learn! Remember the saying I taught you when you were small, it goes like this:

Come to the edge, he said.
They said: We are afraid.
Come to the edge, he said.
They came.
He pushed them...
And they flew. — Guillaume Apollinaire

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 17

8:30 Comedy

Mr. Bean

Mind the Baby, Mr. Bean

9:10 Quantum Leap

Jimmy

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Friday, June 18

8:30 Alf

9:10 H.E.L.P.

Are You There.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Peter The Great

Saturday, June 19

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Not Another Science Show

The episode focuses on the automobile engines and their fuel.

9:30 Saturday Variety Show

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Jagged Edge

Glen Claws investigates about a mysterious murder, in which the wife is the victim, the suspicious murderer is the husband.

6:30 Step By Step

Mike's son found some difficulties in understanding Shakespeare's novel.

9:10 The Good Guys

Find The Lady

Funds are sadly lacking and when Guy Macfadyen is offered a photographic assignment, he is elated. His friend Dave is unable to cover the annual charity dinner of wealthy industrialist Max Weiner, but there is a catch. Weiner's daughter (Clarissa) is no longer on speaking terms with her father and has asked Dave to remove a family heirloom which is rightfully hers, while covering the dinner. Desperate for the work Macfadyen agrees but he'll need to meet her first. Dave arranges drinks on her boat on the Thames. Lethbridge agrees to come along, and as he has promised Sarah a night on the town, she comes too. Clarissa tells them her father disapproves of her choice of husband a Yorkshire gardener and that

although the vase is of little value, her late mother had wanted her to have it. She promises a full briefing about the security in the house. Macfadyen is still uncertain about whether to take the job. Clarissa turns up at the flat, and manages to win him over.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series

Monday, June 21

8:30 And Baby Makes Five

Jenny ask Eddy to take care of the children so as to let her work in the supermarket.

9:10 The Story of Hollywood.

Hollywood Now

The episode focuses on the Glory Hollywood in the eighties.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Street Justice

Backbeat

Beautiful Gherbella gets freed of Gherdy who protected her from a gang of teenagers. In return she employs him in the disco she owns and pays him well. The F.R.I. has suspi-

cius concerning the disco, believing that fishy things take place over there.

Tuesday, June 22

8:30 Beadles About

This film is based on a true story taken from the court files of the State of Arizona.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Breaking Point

Starring: Joanna Pacula.

The Germans try to treat an American major to invade the date and place of the Allied invasion in 1944.

Wednesday, June 23

8:20 Torkelsons

9:00 Spotlight

9:30 Documentary

10:00 News In English

10:20 I'm Not Doubt

Cress confesses to his psychiatrist hired by his lawyer that he killed his step-father. New events take place after that.

Petra church

(Continued from page A)

The internal opulence and size of the structure indicate that the community at Petra was relatively well off in the late 5th/early 6th centuries, but the poor quality external construction techniques, coupled with the declining quality of the architecture of the shops alongside the colonnaded street in central Petra at that time, may force archaeologists to re-think the exact status of Petra, and perhaps even to revise our modern interpretation of "ancient urbanism".

As co-director Dr. Zbigniew Fiema noted in a recent interview at the site, the church discovery will fill in some blanks in our knowledge of Christianity at Petra

in the 5th-6th centuries, but it may also encourage some archaeologists and historians to reconsider their views on ancient urbanism, which may be unduly influenced by our perception of modern cities.

Some of the questions that the church excavation raises are: How does one reconcile a large and lavishly decorated church with other signs of urban decay? Could Petra have had a small religious community with its bishop, but also acted as a regional ecclesiastical site that was visited on pilgrimages? Did the city's inhabitants live in built homes as well as tents or refurbished cave-like structures inherited from the Nabataean era, which might explain the relatively small number of housing quarters

discovered in the city-centre to date? And did the colonnaded street in central Petra lose its importance when the church was built, perhaps leading to a northwards shift in the centre of the city? Was this due to different concepts of urban planning, or only to the dangers inherent in rebuilding in the city-centre next to monumental buildings that were repeatedly damaged by earthquakes?

We knew from other excavations in Petra (Temple of Winged Lions and environs, ex-Zantur, Katuteh) that urban domestic quarters continued to exist until the late 6th century; but towards the end of the Byzantine era — perhaps due to earthquake damage in the city-centre — the city appears to comprise several separate clusters of houses instead of one continuous mass of buildings.

There is clear evidence of other structures buried beneath the earth in the vicinity of the church, and these may have formed part of the new city-centre, or one of several urban clusters, in the late Byzantine period, just before the region of Jordan was incorporated into the new Islamic world.

The Petra church project is directed by ACOR, with support and in-kind donations from the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project includes three components: the excavations, the restoration, and the construction of a protective shelter over the site. The site is expected to be opened to the public in late 1993.

Couples turn to green methods of contraception

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — More and more couples are switching to natural birth control methods, out of a desire to avoid harmful side effects rather than from any religious conviction. Researchers and family planning officials meeting recently at a conference called by Pope John Paul II report a surge of interest in "green" contraception techniques from women reluctant to use methods which require taking drugs or having surgery.

A boom in research into natural family planning methods has led to a dramatic improvement in success rates, it seems. Natural methods, once scorned for their hit-and-miss results, are now more reliable than any reversible artificial technique, including the birth control pill and the intra-uterine device (IUD), claim experts.

In Third World countries, where lack of population control is one of the major factors hampering development, natural contraception techniques are proving an economically and sometimes morally — acceptable alternative to complex and costly artificial methods. "There is a wave of interest in natural birth control techniques, both in the developed and the developing world," said Dr. Claude Lancot, executive director of the International Federation for Family Life Promotion, an international family planning association based in Arlington in the U.S.

According to Dr. Lancot, natural birth control, once the domain of the Roman Catholic Church, is increasingly attractive to many couples, irrespective of their religion. "We even have two associate groups who are Muslims, and they clearly don't advocate natural methods out of respect for Rome's teaching for the Humanitas Vitae," said Dr. Lancot, referring to the 1968 encyclical of Pope Paul VI, which confirmed the Catholic Church's strong opposition to artificial contraception and abortion.

The recent Vatican conference, which assembled 50 re-

searchers, theologians and family planning workers from around the world, was the biggest gathering ever held by the Roman Catholic Church on the delicate issue of birth control. According to Vatican sources, the meeting was called partly to offset growing criticism of the Catholic Church's rigid position on birth control, especially as it affects the poorest developing countries.

Although widely respected for his political clout, and his contribution to bringing about an end to Communism in his native Eastern Europe, Polish-born Pope Karol Wojtyla has earned harsh criticism for his conservative stand on family planning. The Catholic Church remains adamant that couples should not use artificial techniques to prevent unwanted pregnancies, and the pope has proved to be far more of a traditionalist than even previous pontiffs.

In the new catechism unveiled in December 1992, widely seen as the most important document to come out of John Paul's papacy, the Catholic Church reiterated its position that a large family was a sign of "divine blessing" and "parental generosity."

The pope has even banned the use of condoms when a member of a married couple is infected with the HIV virus that leads to the killer disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). In Western countries with significant Roman Catholic populations, including the U.S., France, Belgium, Austria and Germany, the pope's teaching has come under increasingly heavy fire, both from members of the public and from liberal Roman Catholic theologians. In many of these countries, Roman Catholic couples regularly ignore their church's ban on birth control. Even in Italy, on the doorstep of the Vatican, most women use contraception, and abortion is freely available.

But the pontiff's uncompromising position has its most serious implications for the growing number of Ro-

man Catholic converts in Africa and Asia, and especially for the large flock in Latin America. At last June's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the Roman Catholic Church was roundly chastised for adding to the world's over-population problems. The Catholic Church has also found itself under pressure in the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe where, in the absence of artificial birth control methods, abortion has long been the most common form of spacing births.

On a recent visit to Russia, where abortion became virtually an institution during the Communist regime, Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family, said he had been struck by the interest shown by medical staff, social workers and government officials in natural techniques taught by the Catholic Church. "The interest there in natural methods is immense, for various reasons, not least of which is the economic factor," said the Colombian cardinal, who spent 14 years working in some of the poorest neighbourhoods of his native country before being summoned to the Vatican. "These artificial methods cost money and they (the Russians) do not have much. But it is also because they recognise the problem is fundamentally an ethical one. Russia has an extremely high abortion rate."

According to Cardinal Trujillo, natural birth control methods are a "scientific and ethical alternative" to artificial methods. "Natural birth control is a solution to the grave problems faced by Catholic couples, who for just reasons, want to space the birth of their children," he said.

But, in common with a growing number of lay officials, the Roman Catholic cardinal claims it has wider applications, for reasons of finances in the Third World, and for reasons of health in the developed world. "Why run a physical risk when natural, harmless and efficient

methods are available?" he said.

Doctors and family planning officials say that many women in the industrialised countries, scared by recent reports that the contraceptive pill may be linked to breast cancer and reluctant to carry on bombarding their systems with drugs that artificially affect their hormones, are requesting more information about natural contraceptive methods. "Natural contraception carries with it no medical side effects and often improves communication between spouses," said Dr. Thomas Hilgers, director of the Pope Pius VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction in Omaha, USA. "A lot of non-Catholic couples are requesting instruction, because they want a biologically safer method of contraception."

Natural birth control methods are based on predicting the moment in a woman's cycle when ovulation occurs and hence when she is at her most fertile and should abstain from sex if she wants to avoid pregnancy. In the past, calculations were based on counting the days in a woman's cycle and making a chart of her temperature — a slight rise in body temperature, usually of 0.5 degrees centigrade, generally occurs just after ovulation.

This technique, known as the "rhythm method" was notoriously unreliable. But modern research has developed new, more sophisticated ways of establishing the period when a woman is most likely to conceive. Developments discussed at the Vatican gathering included research that indicates saliva acidity can be a pointer to ovulation. Also presented was a Japanese high-precision computerised thermometer.

The most reliable system of natural birth control is known as the mucothermal method and consists of monitoring temperature fluctuation in conjunction with changes in the consistency of cervical mucus — a highly accurate indicator of the moment of ovulation, say doctors.

"The old way — using the calendar and temperature method — is no longer used by itself, but is combined with other techniques which tell a woman when she is in her fertile period, such as mucus or autopalpation of the cervix, which is extremely reliable," said Dr. Lyn Billings, the Australian family planning expert who pioneered the so-called "rhythm method" and has been in the forefront of research to update the technique. "Every woman can learn fertility awareness and recognise which phase of the cycle she is in with very little practice."

"We have taught women in more than one hundred countries, including women who are illiterate and from very low socio-economic backgrounds, and the success rate is very high," Dr. Billings noted.

Tests appear to bear out her claim. Independent trials have concluded that the natural technique has a success rate higher than either the birth control pill or the intra-uterine device or coil, generally considered to be the two most effective methods of artificial contraception. Said Dr. Hilgers: "I have been involved in three rigorously controlled studies of the effectiveness of the Billings ovulation technique and the result was 99 per cent in all of these cases."

Dr. Josef Rotzer, president of the German-based Institute for Natural Conception Regulation, a non-denominational family planning organisation, says he and his staff have instructed a growing



So-called "green" techniques of spacing out births are helping mother and child

number of women in natural birth control in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. "If you stick to the rules, there should be no surprise pregnancies," he said.

Scientists report that women who use natural birth control methods are also more in touch with their bodies and able to detect problems before they develop into more serious conditions. "What is more, it has been shown that women who use the ovulation method have fewer gynecological problems that normally require surgery, such as ovarian cysts," said Dr. Hilgers. "It can also help couples who do want to have children but experience difficulty by helping them understand the most

favourable period of the cycle."

At the U.N. World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva, research has been stepped up into natural birth control methods, with a view to helping women in the Third World avoid multiple pregnancies and reduce the high number of deaths of women in childbirth. "There are some 500,000 maternal deaths worldwide each year," said WHO family planning expert Dr. Earle Wilson.

"There are good reasons for spacing births adequately, both for the mothers and for the other children in the family. We recognise the value of couples having access to effective natural methods of fertility regula-

tion."

Dr. Lancot, who has travelled the world on behalf of the International Federation for Family Life Protection, says he favours natural contraceptive techniques for the most practical of reasons. They do not require a woman to remember to take a pill daily or to have access to a regular supply of pills. Said Dr. Lancot: "I well recall a case in Dakar (Senegal), where 10,000 women were left without birth control pills from one day to the next, because the U.S. suddenly decided to withdraw its financial support for a birth control plan. Not surprisingly, that led to a spate of unwanted pregnancies." — World News Link.

Tragedy of Britain's eyeless babies baffles doctors

By Helena Pozniak
Reuters

LONDON — Six-year-old Andrew Bourne has no eyes. He was born that way and his parents don't know why.

Children like Andrew are rare. Cases of anophthalmia, when a child is born with sockets but without eyes, have never been officially nationally recorded and doctors can explain only half the cases by genetic reasons.

Parents no wiser as to why their child is not like others have joined together to make an emotional plea for deeper medical research into the phenomenon.

Andrew's mother, Maggie Bourne of Frinton in the eastern English county of Essex, recalls the baffled hospital response at his birth.

Told that Andrew's condition was not genetically caused but apparently a freak one-off, she was left alone with her trauma.

"The hospitals were as shocked as I was — nurses were kind but they were at a loss as to what to do with me. I was sent home with a newborn baby and no one around to help or reassure me."

Nor could she or her husband explain to older brother James. "When Andrew was born, James asked why he

didn't have eyes. It was very painful — we couldn't answer him."

In January, the Observer newspaper reported that nine children were born without or with tiny eyes — microphthalmia — within a 40-mile (60-km) radius in Lincolnshire, central England, in the past 12 years, much higher than the national average figure.

Whatever the cause of the apparent cluster, and the newspaper hinted at pesticides, the report prompted parents to form a nationwide support group known as Micro- and Anophthalmic Children's Society (MACS).

After a first meeting in May, the group aims to lobby for more medical research, provide help for parents and sufferers and raise money for the affected children.

Initially benomyl, a chemical compound widely used in pesticides, was thought to be a possible cause. But Britain's ministry of agriculture reviewed it and declared it safe earlier this year.

However, parents' demands for medical attention have grown.

Until proper records are kept, Dr. Michael Legey of North Lincolnshire health authority said, allegations of clustering of cases in rural

areas where pesticides are used by farmers will remain impossible to prove.

"Because children don't necessarily require hospital admission, it is up to local health authorities to report cases," he said. About 30 to 120 cases are reported each year.

Moved by the plight of the blind children, Junior Health Minister Baroness Cumberlege has ordered an official inquiry into possible causes of anophthalmia.

Those parents seeking legal action, Mrs. Bourne among them, have consulted lawyers.

"...I do feel some sort of external factors caused it — maybe a combination of fungicides. We just don't know, and we deserve a proper inquiry," she said.

Solicitor Alan Care agreed. "We're as concerned as everybody else. It's a terribly complicated thing to research, it will take a while to find out whether there's a case to go forward," he said.

While the legal machinery grinds on, parents get on with the job of comforting and advising others.

Pam Henderson, teacher of blind children and vice-chairman of MACS, said: "I've had countless phone calls from parents across the country, telling me again and again that there was not enough information available. Some thought their child was a freak of nature. Now I can put them in touch with others who can listen and share experiences."

Anophthalmic children are doubly handicapped, Ms. Henderson says. "Not only

are they blind, they look maimed, disfigured — obviously something is missing. The eyecup stands out proud."

Once active in demanding certain pesticides be banned, Ms. Henderson now avoids assigning blame but, like others, believes medical knowledge is sadly lacking.

"No mothers I have spoken to were asked if they did anything different in the first four weeks of pregnancy when the eyes are formed. I wonder about the 'cocktail' effect of pesticides. I don't believe enough checks are made on that. She asked for records of anophthalmic births to be collected and compared internationally."

"Remember how manufacturers tried to deny that thalidomide caused handicaps, she warned."

The memory of thalidomide lingers as a ghastly testament to incomplete medical research. A drug prescribed to treat morning sickness, it was withdrawn from the British market more than 30 years ago after 8,000 babies worldwide were born with deformities from club hands to eyes out of their sockets.

For Mrs. Bourne, the burden of coping with Andrew has been eased by media interest.

"From a selfish point of view it's made life easier. You realise you're not alone. People now know what's wrong with Andrew instead of standing and staring. If I hadn't had an anophthalmic child, I wouldn't have known either. Heaven forbid, but it could happen to anybody."

Scientists find gene important to emotions

WASHINGTON (R) — Researchers reported they have found and mapped a human gene that may play a role in psychiatric disorders including manic depression.

Writing in the June 15 issue of the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists at Washington University in St. Louis said future studies of the gene may shed light on the biological basis for inherited depression.

The gene they discovered is responsible for a cutting off action by a protein in cells.

This protein, called a phosphatase, cleaves a complex signal transmission network that exists within cells.

The gene they discovered has the same effect on the body as lithium treatment given to psychiatric patients. Lithium blocks the action of the same protein.

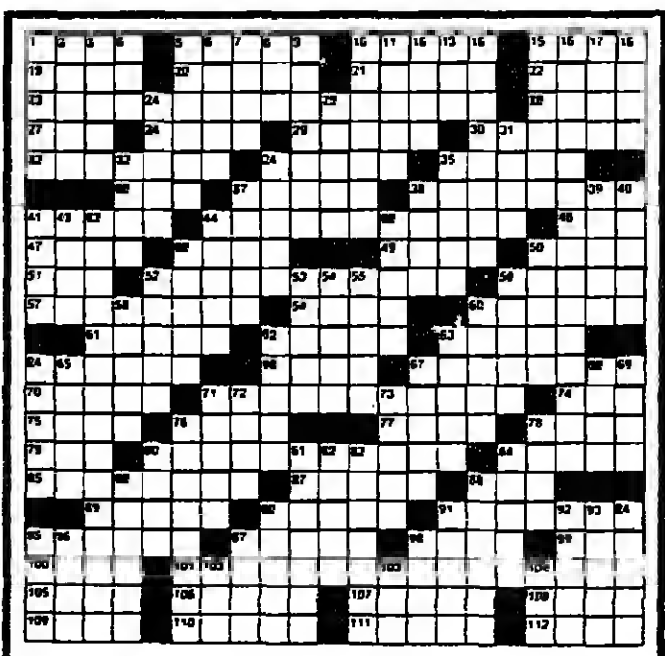
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

HOMOPHONES
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS
1. Sound
5. Less nifty
10. Brother Can
15. Claret, dog
19. Eme content
20. Sift
21. Cut
22. Turnip
23. Poem about a
24. Helium, dec
26. Consequence
27. Sun, fan
28. Live some cheese
29. 100-yard run
30. Abbey Thomas
31. Sift
32. Clam
33. Title
35. Some brains

DOWN
1. All — (puzzled)
2. Certain studies
3. River in France
4. — volume
5. Sift
6. Enrage
7. Grasp
8. Chemical stuff
9. Winklers
10. Dead pool
11. Sift
12. Labor follows
13. Old Russian
14. Dismal
15. Filled with
16. Old Gray a
17. —
18. Host
19. Sift

36. NYC shopplace
37. Not sure
38. Very learned
41. Call a
44. Bright, sweet
45. New Deal org
46. Not a
48. Not a
49. Territory
50. Go over
51. Not a
52. Church, rears
53. Sift
54. Sift
55. Sift
56. Sift
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91. Sift
92. Sift
93. Sift
94. Sift
95. Sift
96. Sift
97. Sift
98. Sift
99. Sift
100. Sift



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Rope flutist's sister's spouse in hotel of pure undisturbed sonic cadence.
2. When mean witness tried to swindle poor farmer out of his dwindling acreage, tortoise was stepped in.
3. Tall teen bus driver with fancy white gloves brings young group to famed tourist spot on Maine coast.
4. Tough guy on safari turned timid at finding small insect fly in his tent.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. XZ TCVL OXMMVAP LKVPZ FB ABLEKVP
VZ TCVL XZ ZVMIAL XZ HKVL OXMMVAP
ZABH. — By Gordon Miller

2. BEGOG FYXELLY DYXNNHP III
YCOABYSOG GNO PY INLLIIRND COXED
ORRYAPL. — By Ed Huddleston

3. VEDS YUWY ADWSQYR GHRY ADWSQYR
PBVR GHRY PBVR ER YUW GHRY BX
PENSV, PEXD? — By Barbara J. Hugg

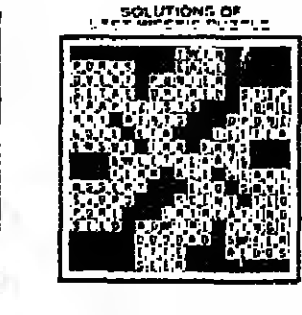
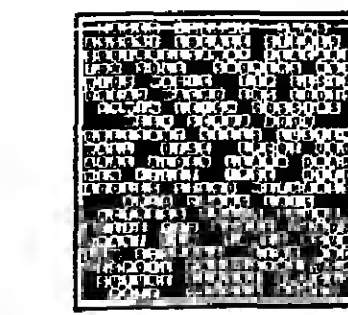
4. GALWYII RYGGI HORY: "TLE IKFY DEY HU"
HOAW HOWY HOW, HAIRYE. — By Eugene T. Malaska

Diagramless 21 x 21. By James Barrick

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SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES
Heads Alike

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2. JACKASS and JACKAL
3. KOALA BEAR and KODIAK BEAR
4. MANATEE and MANDRILL or MANGABEY
5. MONKEY and MONGOOSE
6. PANDA and PANTHER
7. PORPOISE and PORCUPINE
8. WALRUS and WALLABY

Time is opportune to find solution to Palestinian- Israeli problem

(Continued from page 4)

Q: When the Likud was in power, you said from the Knesset that you thought deportation doesn't work.

A: What I said was the way the deportations were carried out during the last days of my serving as minister of defence in the nation-

al unity government made it ineffective. What we did vis-a-vis the 415 was done in a different way. It was done immediately; they were not deportations forever, but temporary removal, which is more effective and more helpful and didn't call for the legal procedure that takes

months.
Q: So you expect that the long-term deportees, those deported forever will be allowed to come back?

A: It is allowed by the law. We will see.

Q: They will have to apply individually?

A: I don't know. I can't predict the future. It depends what will

happen in the negotiations and in the territories.

Thank you.

A: I believe that we live in a unique period in which there is an opportunity to start to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. You can't expect that everything will be solved. What is on the agenda is a two-phased solution. I wish that both sides will find the com-

mon sense and the courage to make the compromises that are needed to start for the first time Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and agreement. In the past, we didn't negotiate with Palestinians. It is the first chance for the Palestinians to be a real partner and seek the solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. I was born here in Jerusalem, I am the first prime minister of Israel that

was born here. I lived all my life here except five years that I was ambassador to the U.S. I believe that basically we can come to a

solution. But as we say, for war and troubles, one side is enough, but peace needs two sides.

Q: But this means that we need to show sensitivity to each others' situation.

A: I am sure, but the question

is what are the major issues that are vital to each party. Therefore, the gradual way to solve the conflict is the way that was proposed and accepted by the Palestinians in the letter of invitation to the Madrid talks.

Regent stresses linkage of rights

(Continued from page 1)

strengthening of the centre for human rights cannot effectively lead at some stage ... to the establishment of a high commission. I don't really see why the question of humanitarian intervention cannot be based on the development of a criteria that is truly universal

... What is the justification of a Jordanian participating in this conference at all, if the question of the plight of the Palestinian people is not brought to the fore and therefore I do think that it is vitally important to recognise that it is not the question of a polarisation between European space on the one side and the African, Latin American, Asian blocs on the other. It is a question of universality and indivisibility but provided that independence is truly evident in the final wording if not better at least of the spirit of the follow on the conference.

"That is a direct diversion from human rights to politics. We spoke about anthropologists and let me start with the occupied territories, with Gaza. Let me start with the fact that the recognition of the right of what I call junior partners in the peace talks — and there let me refer to Palestinians, Jordanians and Lebanese — is essential to the furthering of any comprehensive peace in our part of the world. Here cannot be peace without recognising people's rights, and this is why I was rather encouraged when the Palestinian delegation took so seriously and so forcefully the question of human rights in the peace talks. But if you look at Gaza in particular as a clear

indication of the enormous difficulties being faced by that very high concentration of population, when you hear reference time and again about the possibilities of a unilateral withdrawal almost the cynical intention of inviting confrontation within that context, frankly one is rather worried that the hopes which are very clear of continuation towards some logical conclusion of an agreement which is clear and fore-sighted over the nature of the interim (Palestinian) self-government is not yet been recognised, on the agenda but if it is to be recognised, then there has to be comprehensive-ness within the context of U.N. Resolution 242 and within the content of recognising the very real problems of suffering of the Palestinian people. Can we make that breakthrough? It is yet to be seen.

"We have a sizeable peace keeping presence in Croatia. We have observers in Bosnia and Macedonia now, and for a tiny country to field up to 1,000 personnel is an extremely demanding task, demanding in every possible way.

"We recognise the sectarian, the ethnic cross of differences. We recognise that Vance-Owen plan has not yet been realised. We realise that there is a scramble for influence on the ground. The allies of today are the enemies of yesterday and so forth.

"Our fear is this continuous Balkanisation is going to spread....
"We do not see that international will have been articulated or applied on the ground and I say that because of the direct involvement of our own personnel under the U.N.'s flag."

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

"The headline stance came the same day the Dalai Lama told hundreds who braved the rain to hear him that Asian cultures do not require a different approach to human rights issues.

"I do not share this view, and I

am convinced that the majority of Asian people do not support this view either," the exiled Tibetan leader said.

Speaking in a park adjacent to the conference building, the Dalai Lama managed to get around China's ban on his presence at the conference.

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Agassi in new pain but determined to defend Wimbledon

HALLE, Germany (Agencies)—Andre Agassi has a new serve and a new pain and painfully little time to get ready for Wimbledon.

The defending Wimbledon champion returned to action Tuesday after an absence of more than two months.

The comeback lasted 96 minutes—the time it took, Carl-Uwe Steeb to beat Agassi 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the inaugural grass-court tournament in Halle, a major tuneup for Wimbledon.

Agassi had not played tournament tennis since April 9, because of tendinitis in his right wrist. His wrist felt fine Tuesday, but there was a new pain in his right elbow.

Despite all the setbacks, Agassi said he was determined to go into Wimbledon fighting.

"When you are the defending champion, you don't go out fearing to lose," he said.

"I'd have probably gone to Wimbledon in a cast," Agassi said. "My heart tells me to play Wimbledon, my head tells me one year of Wimbledon is not worth making the injury worse and maybe affecting my later career."

"If I had pain today (in my wrist) I would have had to make a very painful decision," he said. "But even if my wrist hurt, it'd be difficult to miss Wimbledon. It could be once-in-a-lifetime chance to defend the title."

Agassi plans to stay in Halle until Thursday and Friday to practice, before going to Wimbledon.

Seeded No. 8 in Wimbledon, better than his No. 13 world ranking, Agassi was drawn Tuesday to open his campaign on

centre court Monday against Bernd Karbacher of Germany. But he declined to discuss the draw, saying, "I haven't seen it."

Agassi, who was forced to modify his service action to take pressure off the injuries, realises he has a major uphill task even to get through the first week at Wimbledon.

But he was just happy to be on a court again at the Halle Arena, a new stadium which has been modelled on the All-England Club.

"I need more matches. I wish I could have had more. But every minute I spend on a tennis court from now until Wimbledon is going to help me... if I can get through a few matches, things may go all right for me. The first week is going to be critical."

The American said his heart was in returning to Wimbledon. But on Tuesday's form he has a very long way to go to be in with a realistic chance of picking up the men's singles trophy July 4.

Agassi used a restricted backswing when he served in the opening game, a tactic which is often employed by players suffering from shoulder injuries but not that common that arm problems.

The American looked to be carrying a few extra kilos. As if to hide the flab, he unusually had his shirt tucked into his shorts, depriving the packed centre court of the sight of one of the world's most photographed naves—after Madonna's—as he launched his serve.

The 9,000 crowd, including Agassi's Wimbledon first-round opponent Bernd Karbacher, gave the American a more rousing reception than Steeb when he was introduced in the warm-up.

Despite the modified technique, Agassi supplied them with a brilliant display of serving in the opening game when he hit two aces. The American seemed to be on top, breaking Steeb's service in the sixth game to take a 4-2 lead.

Although Steeb broke back with a backhand passing shot to reduce Agassi's lead to 5-4, Agassi kept his nerve to take the first set 7-5 after 39 minutes when Steeb hit a volley at the net past the baseline.

But that was the last period of good play from Agassi in the match. His game went to pieces in the second and third sets as Steeb kept him pinned to the baseline with some accurate shots from the back of the court.

But Steeb said Agassi may not need much time to get into shape. "He needs to win a couple of matches. Then he's there."

"I've got a week to get things together. I don't feel I'm as prepared as I could have been, but I've got to do my best," Agassi said.

Navratilova wins twice; Shriver apologises: Top-seeded Martina Navratilova won two matches Tuesday at the rain-disrupted Eastbourne grass-court tournament, while No. 3 Mary Joe Fernandez was ousted in her second match of the day.

Fernandez, playing for the first time since losing to Steffi Graf in the French Open final 10 days ago, defeated Briton Shiri-Ann Siddall 6-4, 7-5 in her opening match.

But three hours later, Fernandez was knocked out of the \$375,000 event by 55th-ranked fellow American Ginger Helge-

son 6-2, 6-2. She was forced to play twice because most first-round matches were rained out Monday.

"The French Open final was in the past, I have to look to the future," said Fernandez. "It takes me a while to adapt to the grass and today Ginger played a very good match."

Navratilova needed just 52 minutes to earn a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Romanian qualifier Ruxandra Dragomir, she then beat fellow American Robin White 6-2, 6-2 in one hour.

Meanwhile the ugly feud between Pam Shriver and Zina Garrison-Jackson may be over.

Shriver apologized Tuesday for the verbal "misunderstanding" last week which led Garrison-Jackson to accuse her of being racist.

Before going on court to play their first-round singles matches at the Eastbourne grass-court tournament, the two players met.

"We had a talk today and I said sorry for the misunderstanding," said Shriver, who had to retire from her match against Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands with a leg injury.

"We have had 10 years of friendship and hopefully it will go on. From my point of view it will."

During a quarterfinal match between the two players in Birmingham last week, Shriver slammed a ball at Garrison-Jackson and swore at her entourage sitting outside. A short time later, Shriver called Garrison-Jackson "stupid."

After the match, Garrison-Jackson blasted Shriver at a news conference and said she considered some of her words and actions to be racist.

World Cup preliminaries China defeat Jordan 4-1

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

CHINA SCORED A 4-1 victory over Jordan Wednesday handing the Kingdom's team their second embarrassing defeat in the Second Leg of the Asian Group A qualifying matches for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

The loss to China came only two days after Iraq hammered Jordan 4-0 to take a 9 point lead atop the group standings. Iraq are expected to score easy wins in their upcoming two matches to reassert their lead in the group and secure qualification to the second round of Asian competition, at the end of which two teams will qualify for the finals in the U.S.

Iraq were to play Yemen in Wednesday's late match and meet Pakistan Friday. Iraq beat Yemen 6-1 and Pakistan 8-0 in the First Leg of the tournament in Irbid.

China's Li Bing scored his team's first goal in the 15th minute from a free kick just outside the penalty box. Both teams failed to score more goals ending the first half 1-0 for China.

China scored their second goal five minutes into the second half. Ten minutes later Jordan's captain Jamal Abu Abed blasted a powerful long-range shot reducing China's lead to 2-1.

The Jordanian team prevented China's faster strikers from scoring until the 77th minute when Li Bing scored his second goal from a header after a carefully executed corner kick.

Only three minutes later China converted another corner kick to a fourth goal as Gao Hongbo took advantage of an indifferent defence to score an easy goal.

Nat Yadaq lost Jordan's only real scoring chance when he faced the Chinese goalie but hesitated before kicking the ball which was cleverly intercepted by a Chinese defender.

In the final minute of the match Jordan's goalie Mohammad Abu Daoud blocked a dangerous shot by striker Wu Qunli ending the match 4-1.

Standings after Wednesday's 1st game

| | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Iraq | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 9 |
| China | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 8 |
| Yemen | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 8 |
| Jordan | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 5 |
| Pakistan | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 27 | 0 |

British racing driver Nigel Mansell sprays champagne over his new wax figure during his visit to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, Wednesday (AFP photo)

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JUNE 18, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Listening to what others have to say that is entirely different from anything you have heard before makes this a most interesting day for you as you concentrate on matters of a personal nature.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) New and different activities are the centre of today's actions and after a slow start you find sudden action released and a creative ability in operation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You feel your attachment does not appreciate you but keep devoted and loving and you find you get a very special reward for your thoughtfulness.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An associate makes some unreasonable demand early but react in a negative manner, then you can turn the situation in your own personal benefit.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find that work drags early in the day but keep persistent in achieving goals and you are able to bring forth your biggest talents.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study the various ways and means by which you can rise above a delay in plans and charm others into doing some special detail that appeals in you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study the best way to get rid of long standing difficulty at home for

by maintaining a poised attitude you are appreciated and conditions happen as you wish.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study the various means by which to handle that correspondence desk work you have delayed doing and after tonight you have inspiration for a fine way to attend to it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Money matters are of primary concern to you in the morning and then you are able to see modern and current ways to add to your assets easily.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are highly personal today and start off feeling you are being blocked in gaining wishes but suddenly a new attitude brings you success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about how to eliminate a lonesome condition early and then you have a private aspiration you can gain by a whole new approach at gaining it.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Friends and acquaintances are the core of your activity today so seek out experienced ones to aid you early and later encourage new contacts.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study the best ways and means to bring yourself before the public gaze and then do something unusual that can startle and delight those in power.

THE LITTLE: South West North East
NT DBI Rdbi Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Put your entries to good use. Even one point easily can make the difference between success and failure. Consider this hand from the recent Summer North American Championship in Toronto.

South South was playing a mini no trump with a range of 10-12 points. North rebid knowing that North-South had a slight edge

in such cards, but as so often happens on hands where the strength is fairly evenly divided, the defender's advantage in trump count in the opening lead was not enough to tip the scales in their favor.

At both tables in a team match the final contract was one no trump. Both Wests led the king of spades and both Easts signalled with the queen. The standard way to lead the jack as well. Both Wests continued with a low spade to partner's jack.

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Bridge is no easy game.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JUNE 17, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Carry through in a most precise and conscientious way with whatever duties others expect of you and make plans for that trip that is important later this summer. Add up the costs carefully.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Join now with that partner who is equally determined to make a success of your project as yourself and start fresh to make a big advance.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever your decision about continuing your work load this is the day to put in motion a course of action that can keep you well occupied.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) That special gift you possess can now be made to operate in periods of time to make preparations therefore.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are now clever and resourceful in understanding a change that needs to be made beneath your own roof to enhance conditions in that vital realm.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into all matters that intrigue you from the angle of making them a regular part of your everyday interests and claim them for yourself.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to decide and put in motion your practical plans for having more abundance and to so that such will be in effect over a mature period of years.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be straightforward and direct in going after what you personally desire and it can come into your life and remain there for sometime into the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You now should have that well rounded campaign of action for your future well marked out and you can be ready to put into motion the next good day.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make arrangements now to regularly meet with persons with the same outlook or interests as yourself to exchange ideas, information and forge ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your best methods to advance today is to get into conversations with your own family and in unity decide your future aims, course of action.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Communicate in whatever manner is possible with those persons you want to be allied with in your everyday dealings and bring them closer to you.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"Tell me a bedtime story where my boss is turned into a beanstalk and I cut him down to size!"

British racing driver Nigel Mansell sprays champagne over his new wax figure during his visit to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, Wednesday (AFP photo)

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RACJ's Ledger elected to World Motor Sport Council

AMMAN (J.T.)—At a meeting of representatives of the national automobile clubs of 63 countries in Paris last week decisions were taken to fundamentally alter the structure of the International Automobile Federation, to which all national touring and motor sporting clubs belong.

The semi autonomous International Motor Sports Federation, FISA, was disbanded and the parent federation was restructured with two wings, the World Council for Touring and the Automobile for all non sporting matters and the World Motor Sport Council which replaces FISA and deals with all aspects of motor sport internationally.

Elections were held to form the two new 19 member World Councils. Derek Ledger, the chief executive of the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan was elected as a member of the World Motor Sport Council for a four year term. This is the first time ever that a representative of a developing country which only has a small motor sporting programme has been elected as a member of the world motor sport decision making body. Mr. Ledger is also a member of the World Rally Commission which sets the rules and standards of world rallying at



Derek Ledger

all levels and is vice chairman of the FIA World Customs Commission which deals with international motor touring subjects.

The inclusion of a representative from Jordan on these very important decision making bodies is a reflection of the confidence that the top personalities in international automobile affairs has in the Kingdom and the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan which is now able to act as the representative for all the clubs in the Middle East in order to protect their interests at the top level.

Kingmambo wins St. James's Palace Stakes

ASCOT (AP)—Kingmambo charged through a narrow gap in the last furlong and surged to a 1 1/2-length victory Tuesday in the St. James's Palace Stakes, the showcase race of the first day of the Royal Ascot meeting.

A stewards' inquiry was held to determine whether Kingmambo, a 2-5 favorite ridden by Cash Asmussen, had illegally bumped another horse when breaking through a tiny opening in the final stretch. But the stewards upheld the victory, ruling that the incident had not affected the outcome of the one-mile race in which only four horses competed.

Needle Gun, ridden by Michael Roberts, was second. Ventiquatrelli, with Willie Carson as mount finished third. Fourth was ridden by Fat Edgery.

Kingmambo, winner of the French 2,000 Guineas, became the first French-trained horse to win the St. James's Palace Stakes since venture VII in 1960. He is trained by "Pipitoto" Bouthin.

Kingmambo became the overwhelming favorite after the withdrawal of Zafonic, the runaway winner of the English 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket last month. Owner Khalid Abdulla decided not to run Zafonic because of the soft conditions of the grass.

Kingmambo is the only horse to have beaten Zafonic, at Maisons-Laffitte in France in April.

The race got off to an unusual start as Ventiquatrelli and Wharf were outside, while Needle Gun and Kingmambo stayed near the rail. Halfway through the race, the two outside runners cut back inside, trapping Kingmambo in last place with seemingly no way to get through.

In keeping with tradition, several members of the Royal family attended the races. They included Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Phillip, Princess Anne and the Duchess of Kent. Princess Diana, Prince Charles and the Queen Mother were absent, however.

There was an embarrassing incident for organisers when Princess Anne was initially refused entry because a guard didn't recognise her.

"Well, she was wearing dark glasses, wasn't she? I didn't recognise her straight away," said Eric Petheridge.

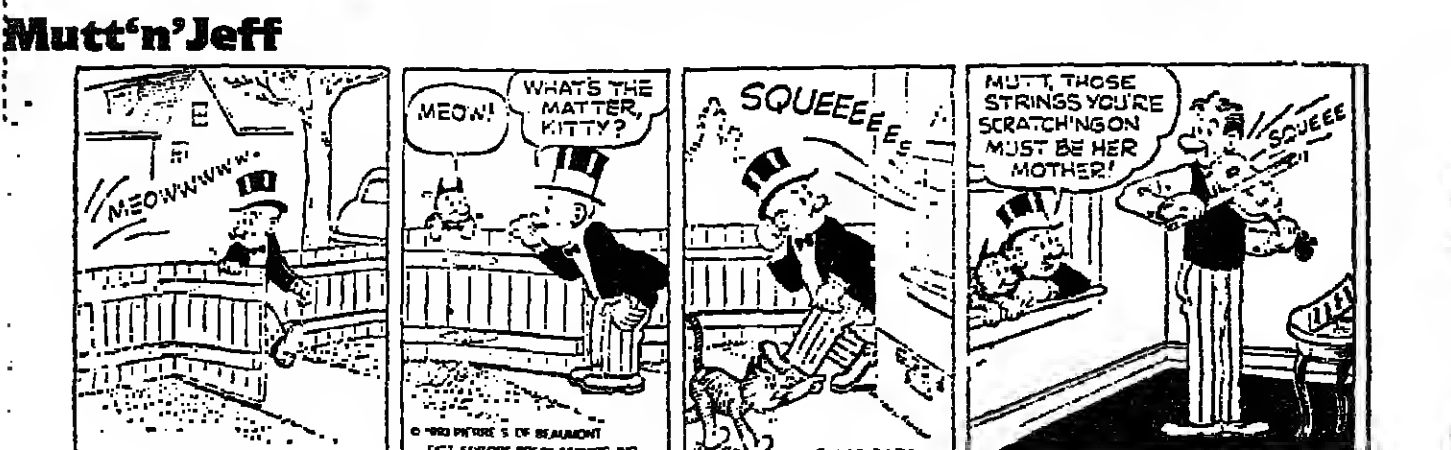
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
1993 Bridge World Magazine

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A K A
♥ 8 8 6 1
♦ Q 8 7
SOUTH
♠ A K 10 7 6
♥ 7 5 4 3
♦ A J 10 5
♣ K 10 12
WEST EAST
♠ A K 10 7 6 ♠ Q J 3
♥ 7 5 4 3 ♥ A 7 4 3
♦ A J 10 5 ♦ K 10 5
♣ K 10 12 ♣ A 6 5 3

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YITED
TAVIL
FARREY
NEXTTE

Answer here: A

Saturday's Jumbles: TAVIL, PIECE, BOUNTY, TOWARD
Answer: What the umpire yelled pizza chef announced—BATTER UP!

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Answers tomorrow

Azeri rebels take two more towns in advance on Baku

BAKU (AFP) — Rebel troops continued their two-pronged advance on Baku Wednesday, taking control of the town of Geokchay where they executed the deputy mayor, officials there said.

The rebels of renegade Colonel Suret Huseynov also seized the town of Aghsu, west of Baku, officials added.

The rebels had executed Geokchay's Deputy Mayor Ilkham Zeinalov and advanced to Ali Bayramly, 120 kilometres south-west of the capital.

Government forces, meanwhile, set up defensive positions at Alyat to the south and Chekmakha to the north of the capital as Azerbaijani President Alibay Elchibey ordered the insurgents, whom he described as "pushing Azerbaijan towards civil war," to lay down their weapons.

Col. Huseynov, who is still thought to be in the rebel stronghold Gyandzha, issued an ultimatum late Tuesday to loyalist troops, calling on them to free the main Gyandzha-Baku road — on which Geokchay and Aghsu are located — to allow his forces into the capital, the officials added. He called on the president to resign.

The revolt began when the rebel contingent, reported Tuesday as 200-strong, seized Gyandzha, Azerbaijan's second city, on June 5-6.

A hospital near the front said it received two dead and seven wounded, and the casualty toll was expected to rise.

Col. Huseynov is demanding the removal of Mr. Elchibey and his entire cabinet — and already has succeeded in forcing the resignation of the prime minister and speaker of parliament.

After the fighting, about 2,000 Elchibey supporters demonstrated outside the presidential palace in Baku.

"I am the legitimately elected president, and only the people, through a referendum, can remove me from that post," the thin, bearded Elchibey told the cheering crowd.

Mr. Elchibey also issued a written appeal to Col. Huseynov's troops, the former 709th Azerbaijani Army Brigade.

"As the president of the country, I ask soldiers and officers not to spill the blood of their fellow defenders of the nation," he said.

"As commander-in-chief of Azerbaijan's armed forces, I order you to put down your arms."

Azerbaijan, an oil-rich country of 7 million people along the Caspian Sea, is the latest of several former Soviet republics to be torn by civil war since independence.

The worst bloodshed has been in Tajikistan, where the old-style, pro-Communist government has driven pro-Islamic rebels into the mountains. By some accounts, 20,000 people have been killed in the Central Asian nation.

Civil war also has wracked Moldova, Georgia and the Caucasus Mountains of southern Russia.

Azerbaijan's unrest endangers its fragile young democracy. As the fighting broke out Tuesday, the 50-member mejlis, or parliament, met in emergency session to elect former Communist Party chief Geidar Aliev as its speaker.

The 34-3 vote was an attempt to placate Col. Huseynov and prevent a full-scale civil war. But it could return Mr. Aliev, an old-style Communist, to power.

"I'm telling Suret Huseynov that we want peace. All of us must unite," Mr. Aliev told the parliament after his election.

Mr. Aliev, 70, rose through the ranks of the Soviet secret police in the 1940s to become Azerbaijan's Communist Party boss and a member of the Soviet Union's ruling politburo.

He resisted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms and was ousted from the politburo during an anti-

corruption campaign by Mr. Gorbachev in 1987. Mr. Aliev then returned to his native Azerbaijan and became leader of its Nakhichevan region.

Azeris launch huge offensive in Karabakh

Meanwhile Azerbaijani troops launched a huge tank-led dawn offensive Wednesday along the entire eastern front of Nagorno-Karabakh, the general staff of Armenian Defence Forces in the disputed enclave told the Interfax agency.

Dozens of T-72 tanks and other armed vehicles and "a large number of infantrymen," attacked Armenian positions following a heavy artillery bombardment, claiming victims on both sides, authorities in Stepanakert, the capital of the Armenian separatist enclave, said.

But Armenian defensive lines, mostly on higher ground than those held by attacking Azerbaijani forces, were continuing to hold, the general staff said.

The Karabakh Armenians have accused Mr. Elchibey of fuelling the troubles in Nagorno-Karabakh to encourage a show of unity in Baku and thereby undermine the insurgency.

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ELTON GONE: Pop star Elton John and bodyguard (centre) jump over a sofa in the Tel Aviv Hilton lobby Tuesday as they run away from fans and press photographers upon arrival in Israel. John who was scheduled to perform

Wednesday for some 40,000 fans, got angry and left the country afterwards. John was nicknamed "Elton Gone" by an unidentified caller on an Israeli radio station, not long after the incident had been disclosed (AFP photo)

Yeltsin assembly passes declaration on constitution

MOSCOW (R) — A special Kremlin assembly passed a general declaration on progress towards a new Russian constitution Wednesday, disestepping the sensitive issue of power-sharing between regions.

President Boris Yeltsin read out a declaration at a brief joint session of the five working groups making up the assembly. He left out a paragraph describing the 20 ethnic republics as sovereign states but the regions, which seek equal status, as mere "state formations".

The text also left out a section stating that a new parliament's upper chamber should consist of

supreme officials of the 88 subject-territories of the Russian Federation — another issue that has raised controversy.

"Many will sigh with relief at this," Mr. Yeltsin said, after noting his omissions.

More than 80 per cent of delegates present in the Kremlin marble hall voted in favour of the declaration.

Mr. Yeltsin then quickly declared the session over and summoned the next joint meeting for June 26. The working groups would continue negotiations until then on a joint draft to replace the Soviet-era charter.

Bosnian army overruns town held by Croats

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Troops of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army have overrun the region around the central town of Kakanj, forcing more than 10,000 Croats to flee, the U.N. Protection Force said Wednesday.

A spokesman in the nearby town of Kiseljak, where the force has its headquarters, told AFP by telephone that the region was firmly in the hands of the Bosnian army, but that fighting was continuing in two or three villages.

It was the second major defeat for the Croat forces in 10 days, following their loss of their central town of Travnik and the surrounding area.

The collapse of the Croat forces at Kakanj began overnight Monday when a key defence line crumbled, and the Bosnian forces later broke through in other spots, another U.N. source said.

Entire units of the Bosnian Croat forces surrendered to Bosnian army forces in Catic, about 10 kilometres from Kakanj.

A Bosnian Muslim offensive near Novi Travnik continued Wednesday, two days before a ceasefire was due to go into force throughout the republic.

Heavy shelling of the Serb-occupied eastern Bosnian Muslim town of Gorazde continued overnight and Wednesday morning, Sarajevo Radio reported.

The Muslim-controlled radio said there were many dead and wounded in the latest attack, but the report could not be independently verified.

Amateur radio operators, the town's only link with the outside world, have said that 640 people have died and about 1,500 have been wounded in a three-week Serb attack on the enclave, the last Muslim area still holding out in eastern Bosnia.

The United Nations hopes to be able to find out more about what has been going on in Gorazde when it dispatches eight military observers there later Wednesday. The U.N. has so far been unable to provide any information on the Gorazde fighting.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic promised two weeks ago to let the observers go in. But they were blocked by Bosnian Serb military chief Rasim Mladic, who Tuesday relented and signed a written order allowing the monitors to enter the town.

Despite a new ceasefire agreed Tuesday between Bosnia's three warring factions and due to go into force Friday, Sarajevo saw more shelling overnight, although this was apparently less intensive than earlier in the week.

Sarajevo Radio said a house was burnt down in the city's old town district late Tuesday when it was hit by incendiary bullets. One person died and two people were injured in the blaze.

The radio also reported sporadic shelling on government-controlled territory to the northwest of the Bosnian capital.

Meanwhile, international mediators Wednesday launched a new effort to bring peace to former Yugoslavia in talks with the top leaders from Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia.

And signs were that high on the agenda would be reshaping of a current peace plan to allow for some form of separate mini-states inside Bosnia for its three main communities — Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

European Community mediator Lord Owen told Reuters Television he and his United Nations colleague Thorvald Stoltenberg had summoned key figures in the drama to try to put an end to "the horror" in Bosnia and new risks of war on its fringes.

Queen Mother misses Ascot

ASCOT, England (R) — The Queen Mother pulled out of her second public appearance in as many days, missing the traditional parade at the opening day of the Royal Ascot horse race meeting. Royal aides said she was "absolutely no cause for alarm."

Her last-minute decision surprised race-goers and it was the first time that the Queen Mother, 92, a keen racing fan, had missed the race in recent memory.

"There is nothing wrong with her at all. She has had a very busy weekend and she felt a little tired," said a spokesman for the Queen Mother who had a surgical operation last month to remove a piece of food from her throat.

"She decided it would be very much more sensible to conserve her energies for her programme later in the summer and not to go to the races today," the spokesman said, adding: "She went back to work very quickly after her operation and if she goes on with her busy life as she fully intends to do, she needs a day or two off occasionally."

Another absentee from the procession, the queen's twice-married daughter Princess Anne, missed instead among the crowd and was at first turned away from the royal enclosure when a gatekeeper failed to recognise her. The queen was accompanied at Ascot by her husband Prince Philip and the Duchess of Kent, wife of one of her cousins.

Self-professed serial killer captured

GULFPORT, Mississippi (AFP) — A man who claims to have killed 72 people was captured in a lumber yard less than two days after he broke out of the county jail, officials said. Donald Leroy Evans surrendered to two sheriff's deputies without offering resistance and was returned to the nearby Harrison County Jail where he was awaiting trial in the 1991 rape-murder of 10-year-old Beatrice Routh of Gulfport. Mr. Evans, 35, escaped with three other prisoners Sunday night after one of them pulled a homemade knife and overpowered a guard. One of the escapees remained at large. Although he has boasted of killing 72 people over a 10 year period, Mr. Evans has been charged in only two slayings — Routh in Gulfport and Ira Jean Smith of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

General ridiculed Clinton

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Air Force investigation has found corroboration for allegations that a general, in a speech, described President Bill Clinton as a gay-loving draft dodger who smoked pot, a defence official said. The official, who requested anonymity, said no decision had been made on possible punishment of Major General Harold Campbell, Gen. Campbell, 53, spoke last month at an air base in the Netherlands in another embarrassing episode in Mr. Clinton's effort as commander in chief to rise above the hostility of some members of the military. The official said the investigation supported what was earlier reported about the speech by the Washington Post. "I think what we have here is that the guy said something very close to what has been reported," Gen. Campbell was not immediately available for comment, but air force officials earlier confirmed the Post report that Gen. Campbell had been accused of describing Mr. Clinton in such terms as gay-loving, pot-smoking, draft-dodging and womanising in a May 24 speech at a banquet of air force personnel near Soesterberg Air Base. It is a violation of military law for officers to express public contempt for civilian leaders, and the incident has raised the possibility of disciplinary action.

China's Li Peng 'looked quite well'

PEKING (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng, who made his first public appearance Monday after seven weeks of illness, seems to have fully recovered, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday. Mr. Mahathir visited to meet the prime minister since he vanished into the hospital on April 26. He said he could discern no sign of illness. "As you know, I am a trained medical practitioner," Mr. Mahathir told a news conference. "He seemed quite well, although he looks as though he had a long spell of illness. But he has certainly recovered very well. And I noticed nothing to indicate that he is in any great discomfort. I would say that if he has been ill, he has recovered."

Mr. Mahathir spent almost 70 minutes with Mr. Li Monday and attended a banquet hosted by the Chinese premier Tuesday. He declined to say if Li had described his ailment, which Chinese officials have repeatedly said was a bad cold.

South Africa marks Soweto Day

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Millions of people stayed away from work Wednesday, paralysing public services amid isolated acts of violence as South African blacks marked the 17th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising.

Police reported one man killed and a policeman wounded in Durban, in Natal province south of here, while a peace monitor was hospitalised in Alberton, near Johannesburg, with stab wounds.

The monitor, Kathleen Jansen, was knifed while walking through a part of Kaithehong township controlled by the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), police said.

About 10,000 people gathered at Orlando Stadium in the sprawling township of Soweto, south of Johannesburg, to hear African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela and other speakers.

Groups marching into the stadium chanted "kill the Boer, kill the farmer," defying a ban on the slogan imposed last week by the ANC leadership.

The chant was picked up by the entire stadium and ANC officials had trouble switching the slogan to "Long live Mandela."

More radical members of the ANC Youth League, meanwhile, fired shots as they marched, danced and sang their way to their own rally at Vosloorus, east of Johannesburg.

The Red Cross said three people were wounded, one of them seriously, by gunfire as 3,000 gathered at Vosloorus Stadium to listen to revolutionary verse as they waited to hear ANC Natal Chairman Harry Gwala.

About one kilometre away, several hundred supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), bitter rivals of the ANC, marched down the main street bearing traditional weapons to hear a speech by IFP regional leader Themba Khoza.

The ceremonies began with a wreath laying at the memorial in Soweto to Hector Pietersen, the 12-year-old student who was the first to die by police bullets in the June 16, 1976, student uprising to protest against the imposition of Afrikaans in schools.

The months of rioting that ensued resulted in hundreds of deaths and ultimately, ANC leaders say, to the ongoing democracy talks expected to lead to the country's first non-racial elections on April 27, 1994.

Meanwhile, Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, explaining Wednesday why his party walked out of democracy talks, said he and his allies demanded full debate on whether South Africa should be a federation or a unitary state.

Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and its black and white conservative allies staged the temporary walkout Tuesday because they think the other negotiators are obstructing the conservative demand for a federal system.

Delegates from the Conservative Alliance, the concerned South Africans Group (COSAG), said Tuesday they would consult their leaders and return to the democracy talks when they resumed Thursday.

Mr. Buthelezi said in a statement Wednesday that his group had drawn a line "against the arrogance of those who have been attempting to manipulate the process of the constitutional development of our country while disregarding the real aspirations of the majority of South Africans."

He has previously accused the IFP's main black political rival, Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, of colluding with the government in pushing through their vision of South Africa's future without regard for opposition views.

The COSAG members demand highly autonomous regions in a federal system, while the ANC wants a centralised government with some regional devolution.

Mr. Sok An said further talks were necessary to resolve the question of military leadership and allot cabinet portfolios.

Prince Sihanouk had proposed that Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, military chief of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, command the armed forces until UNTAC's mandate expired in September.

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Government radio reported that Son Sann had, however, accepted the power-sharing plans of the two larger parties.

Officials from FUNCINPEC were not immediately available for comment. But they had earlier said they expected agreement on the latest proposal by Prince Sihanouk.

The head of state's first plan for an interim government with himself as president and prime minister drew strong objections from Prince Ranariddh's supporters.

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Cambodians agree to share interim power

PHNOM PENH (R) — Leaders of Cambodia's two main political parties agreed Wednesday to share power in an interim administration until a constitution can be written, a government spokesman said.

"I can assure you the formula for co-chairmen has been accepted by all parties," Sok An, cabinet chief for Prime Minister Hun Sen, told Reuters.

He had just emerged from a meeting between the newly elected Constituent Assembly members and head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who had proposed the formula in a letter to the parties early Wednesday.

He called for a government with two co-chairmen — his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, winner of last month's historic U.N.-run elections, and Hun Sen, the incumbent prime minister.

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FUNCINPEC won 58 seats in the new assembly to 51 for Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

Khmer Rouge guerrillas, who boycotted the election, called Wednesday for the formation of a provisional government that gave Prince Sihanouk "real power, not just power in principle."

The 120-seat assembly has three months to write a constitution and will then form a government.

A secessionist movement led by ruling party hardliners in eastern Cambodia was meanwhile falling apart. Its leader Prince Norodom Chakrapong, half-brother and political enemy of Prince Ranariddh, fled to Vietnam with some of his armed followers Tuesday morning.

"According to Mr. Hun Sen no single province under the control of the SOC (state of Cambodia, the government) administrative structure has become an autonomous zone," a statement by the chief U.N. peacekeeper in Cambodia said.

Mr. Hun Sen had been touring the east.

Prince Chakrapong Saturday had declared an unspecified number of provinces on the Vietnam border an autonomous zone with himself and two allies as rulers.

U.N. readies Haiti sanctions resolution

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. envoys have said they were pushing for a Security Council vote this week on proposals to clamp a worldwide oil, arms and financial embargo on Haiti unless democracy is restored in the Caribbean state.

The draft resolution includes a ban on oil and arms shipments and a freeze of financial assets on official funds abroad as well as those of Haiti's governing elite.

The Council Tuesday cut short its scheduled discussion on Haiti because of other commitments but diplomats from the United States, France, and Venezuela, who drew up the document have spoken privately to most mem-

bers. U.S. sources said there were no serious objections to the selective sanctions.

Haiti's parliament voted Tuesday to recognise ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as the country's leader, but it granted him so little power that his own backers boycotted the debate.

The measure would affirm Mr. Aristide's presidency under the constitution — but would extend indefinitely his exile, which began when he was overthrown in a September 1991 coup.

The parliament's action, however, seemed to have little impact on Security Council members.

The draft resolution would put sanctions into force a week after adoption unless Secretary-General Boutros Ghali deems that enough progress has been made that "the imposition of sanctions is not warranted."

The embargo would be reconsidered by the Council after Dr. Ghali deems that the "de facto authorities in Haiti have signed and have begun implementing in good faith" an agreement to restore the proper authorities to power.

The 34-nation Organisation of American States (OAS) a year ago imposed a ban at all Western hemisphere ports of any oil tankers going to Haiti.

Cuba: U.S. hostility blocks talks

HAVANA (R) — A senior Cuban official has said U.S. "belligerence" towards Cuba stands in the way of negotiating compensation for American companies nationalised after the country's 1959 revolution.

Ernesto Melendez, minister-president of Cuba's State Committee of Economic Cooperation said in an interview published Tuesday that Cuba has always been willing to discuss claims by U.S. companies but the U.S. government's policy of hostility had blocked any progress on the issue.

In the interview with the contacts magazine of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, the Cuban official, who is responsible for foreign investments in Cuba, presented no new offers or concessions in the Communist-ruled Caribbean island's dispute with the U.S., its main ideological foe.

"The Cuban government has never refused to include the theme of mutual claims in the agenda of eventual negotiations to normalise relations between both countries," he said.

Mr. Melendez said the Cuban government had long ago been able to reach satisfactory agreements to compensate Spanish, Canadian, Swiss, British, French and other companies who were in the same position.

"A similar solution has not been reached in the case of the U.S. companies because of the

climate of aggression, blockade and belligerence towards Cuba maintained by the U.S. government and because of its refusal to discuss on the basis of mutual respect," he added.

Some foreign news reports had portrayed Mr. Melendez's comments as a sign that Cuba was offering a new olive branch to improve relations with the United States.

But Mr. Melendez's remarks merely re-stated Cuba's long-held position that the U.S. government's embargo against the island and its policy of hostility were the main obstacles to any improvement in relations, whether political or economic.

The same foreign news reports had also referred to a Cuban "announcement" in Havana Tuesday that it was cutting back its armed forces.

But this move was publicly announced nearly two months ago on April 22 by Armed Force Minister General Raoul Castro who said in a published interview cutbacks were necessary because the size of the Cuban military was out of proportion to the country's "economic reality."

The "announcement" mentioned by the news reports was a brief paragraph by a columnist in Tuesday's Communist Party newspaper Granma which clearly referred to General Castro's comments two months ago.

Meanwhile a senior Russian official